すみプンプン ❻

浅野いにお

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

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小学館
YSC-0479

SCANNED BY GRENADIER
TRANSLATED BY HOX

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

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5巻までのあらすじ

地元の有名進学校に入学したプンプン。
同じ高校の同級生・蟹江とデートの約束を取り付け
ウキウキドキュンであったが、
母親との口論から家に帰ってこないように言われ、
まったくもって釈然としない15歳の初夏であった。

登場人物

小野寺プンプン
15歳、高校一年生。体長200m、体重5t。
口から火を吐く。

小野寺プンプンママ
プンプンの母親、スーパーの店員。
全身を覆う鱗を羽のように使い、空を飛ぶことができる。

小野寺雄一
プンプンママの弟。陶芸教室の先生。軽いうつ病で通院中。

小野寺翠
雄一の妻。喫茶店経営。きのこ占いではヌメリスギタケモドキ。

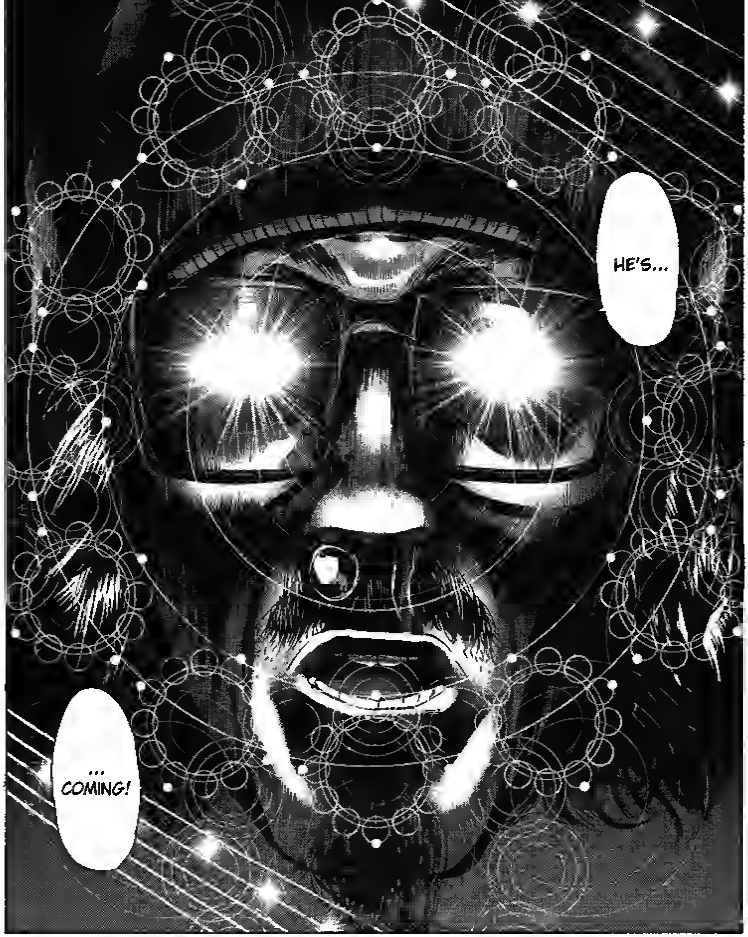
蟹江梓
プンプンの同級生。切りすぎた前髪が気になる15歳。

田中愛子
プンプンがかつて好きだった、小・中学時代の同級生。

三村雷之進
プンプンの同級生。妄想剣道100段。特技は高速うしろ飛び。

としき
住所不定の魔法使い。

CHAPTER 57 ★



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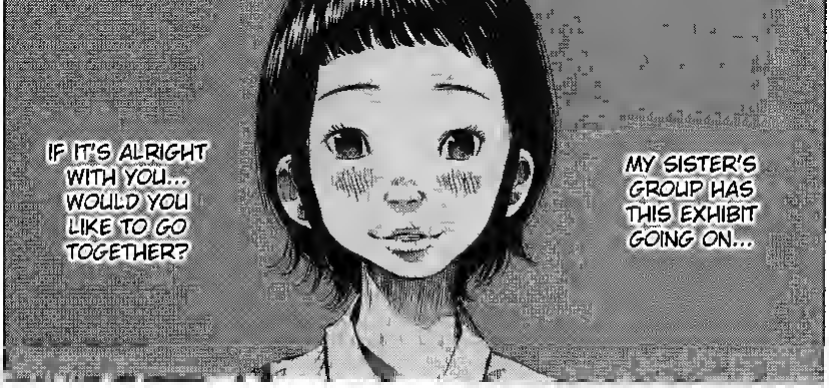
PUNPUN HAD NO IDEA HOW BIG SPACE WAS NOR HOW LONG IT HAD EXISTED FOR BUT...

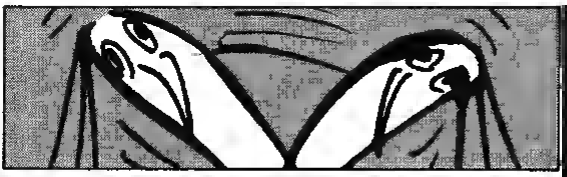
HE WONDERED IF THERE WERE ANY ADULTS WHO COULD SAY SOMETHING COMFORTING TO A TEENAGER AS TROUBLED AS HE

HAVING BEEN TOLD NOT TO COME HOME

WHO DESPERATELY WISHED AN ASTEROID OR METERIORITE OR WHATEVER TO COLLIDE AND DESTROY EARTH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

AND IMAGINING THE LEWD ACTS THAT HIS MOTHER WOULD HAVE ENGAGE IN THAT NIGHT WITH HER *FRIEND*



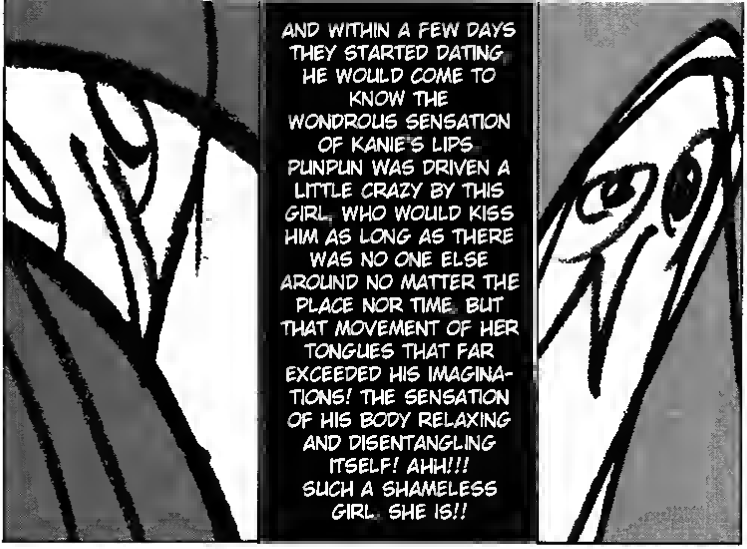


BECAUSE JUST BY THINKING ABOUT HIS DATE THIS WEEKEND, PUNPUN FELT AS IF HIS NERVES WERE OVERWHELMED BY A JOYOUS SENSATION.

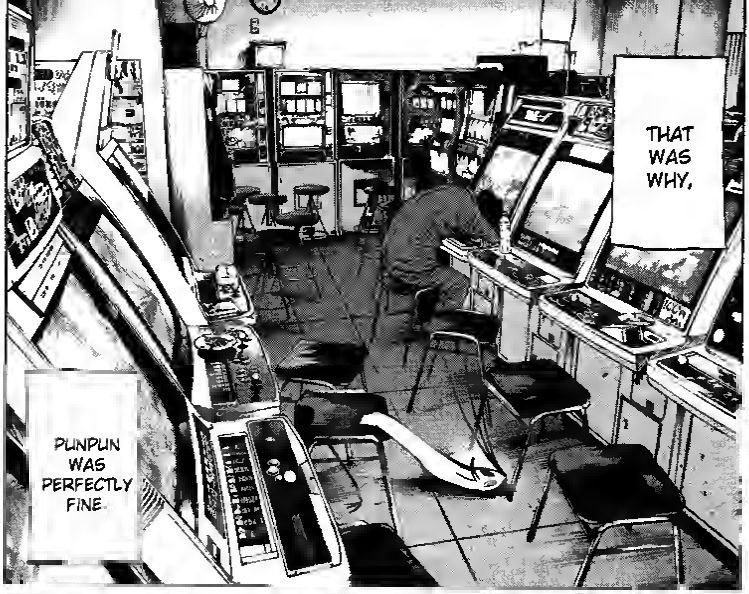
ON THE WAY BACK FROM THE ART EXHIBIT, THEY'LL STOP AT A PARK AND SIT ON A BENCH TO REST THEIR TIRED FEET. JUST THEN, KANIE WILL ASK, "I'VE ACTUALLY LIKED YOU EVER SINCE THE COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY..."

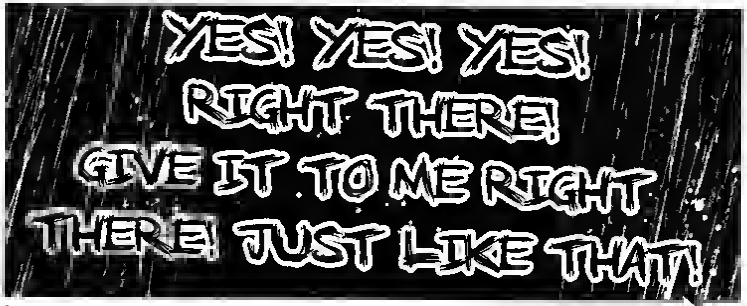
THOUGH PUNPUN COULDN'T HIDE HIS EVER-INCREASING EXCITEMENT ANYMORE, KANIE CONTINUED ON.

"WOULD IT BE OKAY.. I ASKED YOU TO GO OUT WITH ME...?


AND WITHIN A FEW DAYS THEY STARTED DATING. HE WOULD COME TO KNOW THE WONDROUS SENSATION OF KANIE'S LIPS. PUNPUN WAS DRIVEN A LITTLE CRAZY BY THIS GIRL. WHO WOULD KISS HIM AS LONG AS THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE AROUND NO MATTER THE PLACE NOR TIME. BUT THAT MOVEMENT OF HER TONGUES THAT FAR EXCEEDED HIS IMAGINATIONS! THE SENSATION OF HIS BODY RELAXING AND DISENTANGLING ITSELF! AHH!!! SUCH A SHAMELESS GIRL. SHE IS!!

AND ON THE NIGHT THAT KANIE'S PARENTS ARE OUT AT THEIR RELATIVE'S WEDDING, SHE AND HE WOULD FINALLY BE ALONE IN HER ROOM TO UNDRESS AND DISCOVER THE WARMTH OF EACH OTHER'S NAKED BODY! LOSING ALL SENSE OF REASON. THEIR BODIES WOULD RUB AGAINST EACH OTHER! AS HER NETHER REGIONS GROWS HOTTER, SHE COYLY SAYS, "LET'S TURN OFF THE LIGHTS." THEN LIKE A GENTLEMEN. PUNPUN WOULD TRY TO INSERT HIS MEMBER INSIDE BUT WHEN HE SEES HER PAINED EXPRESSION, HE GENTLY SAYS, "I'M SORRY... MAYBE WE SHOULD STOP, I DON'T WANT TO FORCE YOU INTO ANYTHING..." BUT ADMIST THE DARKNESS, PUNPUN SOMEHOW SENSES HER PAINED EXPRESSION SLOWLY TURNING INTO A SMILE. JUST THEN, SHE RESPONDS, "NO... IT'S FINE AS LONG AS IT'S YOU, ONODERA... THIS MUCH IS FINE BECAUSE..." SHE HESITATES SLIGHTLY BEFORE FINISHING HER SENTENCE. "BECAUSE I LOVE YOU." AHHH! I CAN'T BEAR NOT TO HOLD HER TIGHTLY FOREVER!


PUNPUN WAS PERFECTLY FINE.
THAT WAS WHY,

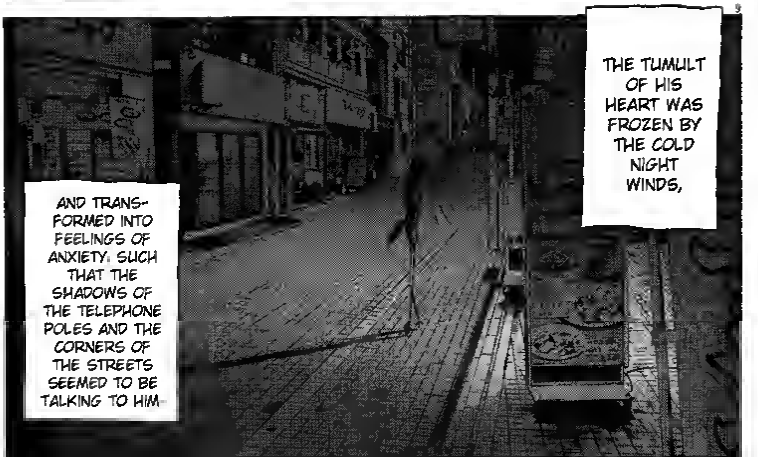

YES! YES! YES! RIGHT THERE! GIVE IT TO ME RIGHT THERE! JUST LIKE THAT!

AHH!
YES!
YES!

COLD ENOUGH TO CALM DOWN PUNPUN'S FEELINGS.

NOT TO MENTION STILL VERY CHILLY,

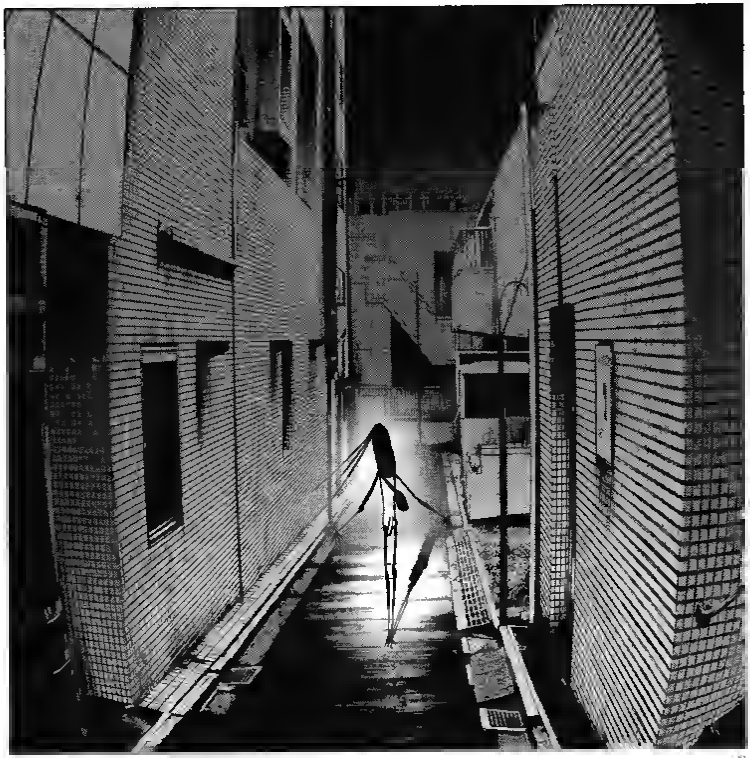
THE TOWN ON THE NIGHTS OF MAY WAS VERY DARK AND QUIET,


THE TUMULT OF HIS HEART WAS FROZEN BY THE COLD NIGHT WINDS,
AND TRANS-FORMED INTO FEELINGS OF ANXIETY, SUCH THAT THE SHADOWS OF THE TELEPHONE POLES AND THE CORNERS OF THE STREETS SEEMED TO BE TALKING TO HIM.

THE COLD NIGHT WIND GENTLY BRUSHED HIS CHEEK, AS IF RIDICULING HIM, AND DISAPPEARED.

WHILE WORRYING IF HE WOULD LIVE THE REST OF HIS LIFE ALONE IF HIS DATE WITH KANIE WERE TO FAIL HORRIBLY,

FOR SOME REASON, THE SILENT TOWN AT NIGHT RATTLED PUNPUN'S HEART.



"SOMEONE PLEASE FIND ME... I'M RIGHT HERE!!"

PUNPUN WHISPERED SILENTLY IN HIS HEART,

HUH?
YOU, UHH...
YOUR FATHER PASSED AWAY...?
HMM?
WHAT, YOU GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT OR SOMETHING?
AH.. NO, IT'S JUST THAT...
I WAS ONLY FEELING DEPRESSED, LIKE ANYONE ELSE WOULD!
WELL, IF THAT'S THE CASE, YOU COULD HAVE JUST SPENT THE NIGHT WITH YOUR SON--!
...THERE WAS NO WAY I COULD JUST SPEND TONIGHT BY MYSELF.
IF THAT'S A JOKE, THEN IT'S NOT FUNNY!
YOU KNOW HOW TENSE MY RELATIONSHIP WITH MY SON IS!
I'M NOT LIKE YOU!

RIGHT...
I'M PRETTY CLOSE WITH MY DAUGHTER AND I HAVE A KIND AND CARING FAMILY, HAHA...
YOU KNOW...
YOUR COMMENT JUST NOW REALLY HURT ME...
MAYBE I SHOULD TELL YOUR KIND AND CARING WIFE ABOUT US, HMM!?

OH, IT WAS ONLY A JOKE!
DON'T MAKE SUCH A SCARY FACE!

HEY...
BESIDES, IT WAS YOU WHO ASKED ME TO COME OVER TONIGHT...
YOU'RE ALREADY AN ADULT SO YOU SHOULDN'T SAY SUCH THINGS, EVEN IF IT IS A JOKE...
SOMETIMES, I GET THE FEELING THAT YOU MISTAKE BEING SELFISH FOR ASSERTING YOUR FREEDOM!

WHAT!!?
DON'T SPOUT YOUR CRAP AT ME!!!
YOU THINK YOU CAN LECTURE ME!?
I SAID I WAS FEELING DEPRESSED SO COMFORT ME OR SOMETHING, YOU ASSHOLE!
O-OKAY, I'M SORRY,
I'M SORRY...
I... WENT OUT OF LINE BY SAYING THOSE THINGS...
ACTING ALL HIGH AND MIGHTY JUST BECAUSE YOUR DICK IS A LITTLE BIG!
IF YOU THINK I'LL ALWAYS BE NICE AND PLAY ALONG, YOU'RE DEAD WRONG!!!
SNIFF
SNIFF
YOU'RE SO CRUEL...
THERE, THERE, THAT'S A GOOD CHILD...

... AM I REALLY A GOOD CHILD?
YES, OF COURSE, OF COURSE!
I AM A GOOD CHILD, RIGHT ...?
YES, YOU ARE! YOU'RE A [illegible] CHILD!
THEN ...
MARRY ME.

THAT'S ...
NOT POS-SIBLE...

RIGHT..
YOU HAVE A KIND AND CARING WIFE AFTER ALL..
EVEN THOUGH SHE IS UGLY AND FLAT-CHESTED..

HAHA...
HAH!
WHY DON'T WE CLEAN UP AFTER OUR-SELVES A BIT..

SIGH..
I WONDER IF THERE'S STILL ANYTHING GOOD THAT'LL HAPPEN IN MY LIFE...
YOU WANT SOME BEER?
NO, IT'S FINE. I STILL HAVEN'T FINISHED MY CAN YET...

YOU KNOW..
I THINK I SHOULD JUST GET GOING FOR TONIGHT ALREADY

AH

AGHH!
H'-H'-W-W ...!!!
J-JUST CALM DOWN!
LET'S TALK THINGS OUT! LET'S TALK!
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!
AH...
I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY!

DON'T WORRY ...
I'M NOT GOING TO STAB,
SUCH A BORING MAN LIKE YOU...

TALK THINGS OVER, MY ASS...
I KNOW...
WHAT'S THE USE IN ARGUING OVER SUCH STUPID THINGS WITH NO REAL ANSWERS.
I'M JUST NOT MEANT TO BE HAPPY ANYMORE...
..AND I'M SICK OF CHASING AFTER THE DICK OF SOME GUY WHO ONLY SEES ME TO FOOL AROUND...

I'D RATHER JUST KILL MYSELF.
GOOD BYE.

I'M JUST ...
REALLY TIRED...
SICK AND TIRED OF TRYING TO PUT ON A TOUGH FRONT AND STAY CHEERFUL

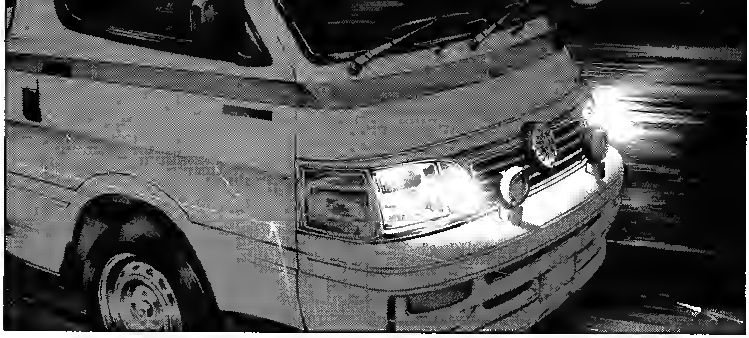
..IT'D BE NICE IF I COULD GET REINCARNATED AS A PRETTY SEASHELL IN MY NEXT LIFE...
..NO, MAYBE NOT A SHELL.

I THINK I'D RATHER BE REBORN AS YOUR SPERM!
YES, THAT'S A GREAT IDEA!
AND THEN I'LL BE BORN AS YOUR DAMN FUCKING DAUGHTER FROM YOUR FUCKING WIFE!
AND I'LL RUIN YOU!!!
I'LL DESTROY EVERY-THING YOU WORKED FOR IN YOUR LIFE!
I'LL WRECK THAT KIND AND CARING FAMILY OF YOURS!
FUHAHA HAGEHA GEHOHO HOHO!!!

AHH
RA
I'VE
GAA
BAA
HAD
AGH!
ENOUGH!
AHHHH!
WHA
!?
カラン
AH...
HUH?

UMM
ARE YOU...
ALRIGHT?
I...
CAN'T
B...
BREATHE ...!!!
CALL...
AN AMBU-LANCE ...

I...
I DON'T WANT TO DIE...!!!



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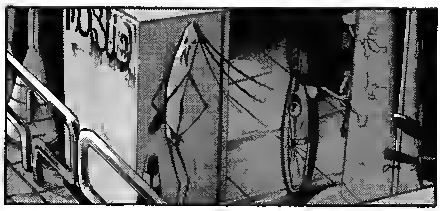
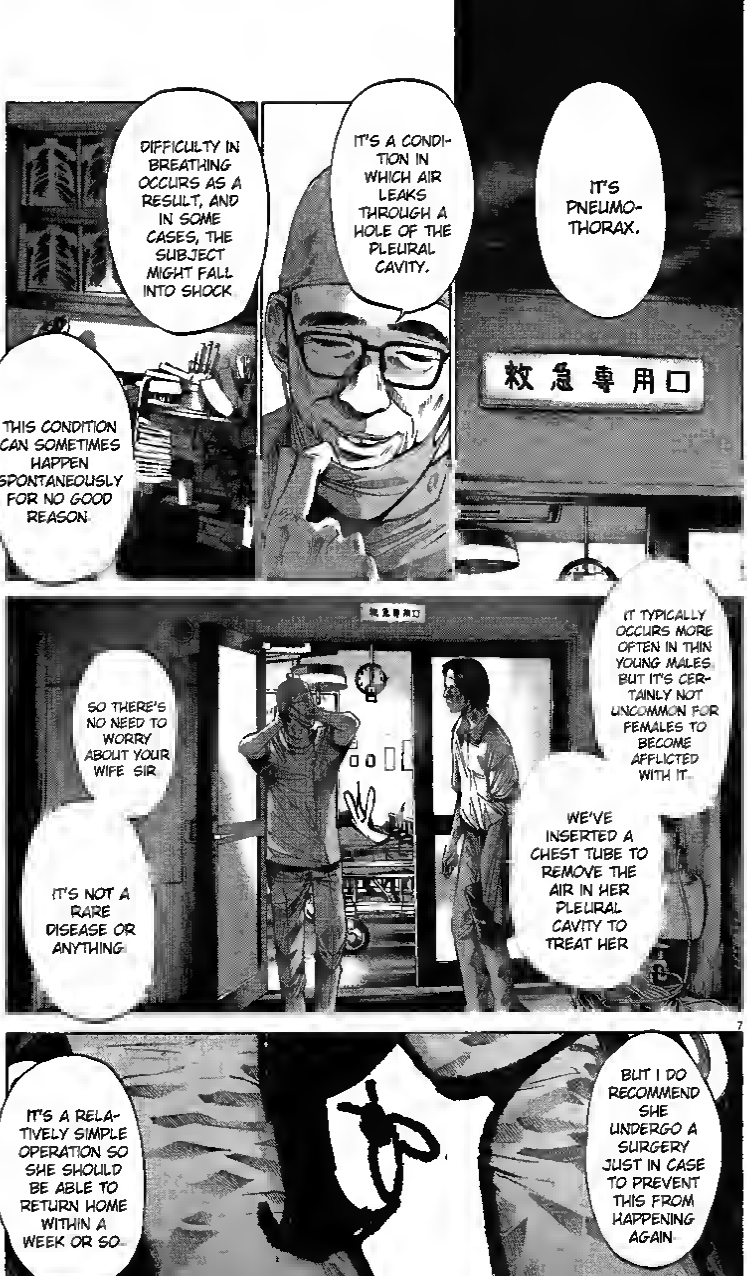
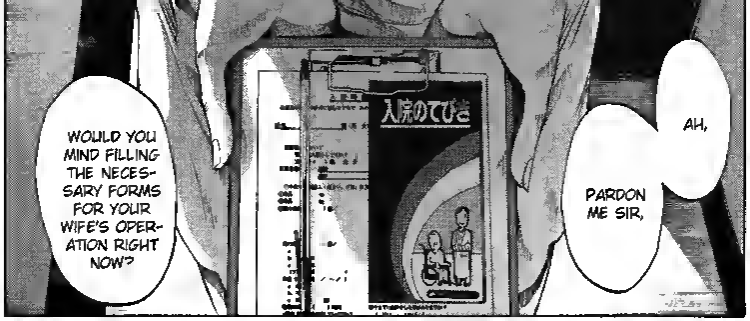
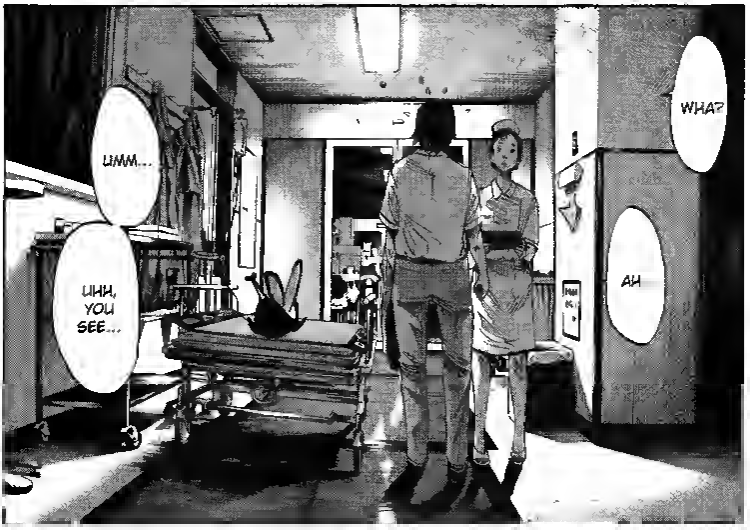
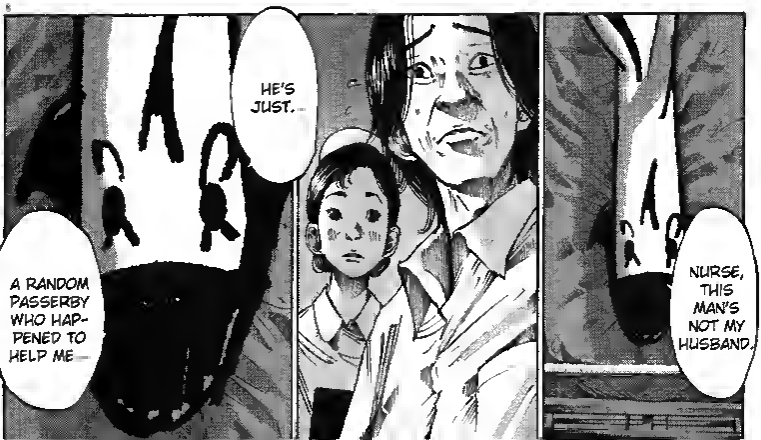



IT'S PNEUMOTHORAX.
救急専用口
IT'S A CONDITION IN WHICH AIR LEAKS THROUGH A HOLE OF THE PLEURAL CAVITY.
DIFFICULTY IN BREATHING OCCURS AS A RESULT, AND IN SOME CASES, THE SUBJECT MIGHT FALL INTO SHOCK.
THIS CONDITION CAN SOMETIMES HAPPEN SPONTANEOUSLY FOR NO GOOD REASON.
IT TYPICALLY OCCURS MORE OFTEN IN THIN YOUNG MALES. BUT IT'S CERTAINLY NOT UNCOMMON FOR FEMALES TO BECOME AFFLICTED WITH IT.
WE'VE INSERTED A CHEST TUBE TO REMOVE THE AIR IN HER PLEURAL CAVITY TO TREAT HER
SO THERE'S NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR WIFE SIR.
IT'S NOT A RARE DISEASE OR ANYTHING.
BUT I DO RECOMMEND SHE UNDERGO A SURGERY JUST IN CASE TO PREVENT THIS FROM HAPPENING AGAIN.
IT'S A RELATIVELY SIMPLE OPERATION SO SHE SHOULD BE ABLE TO RETURN HOME WITHIN A WEEK OR SO.


AH,
PARDON ME SIR,
WOULD YOU MIND FILLING THE NECESSARY FORMS FOR YOUR WIFE'S OPERATION RIGHT NOW?


WHA?
AH
UMM...
UHH, YOU SEE...

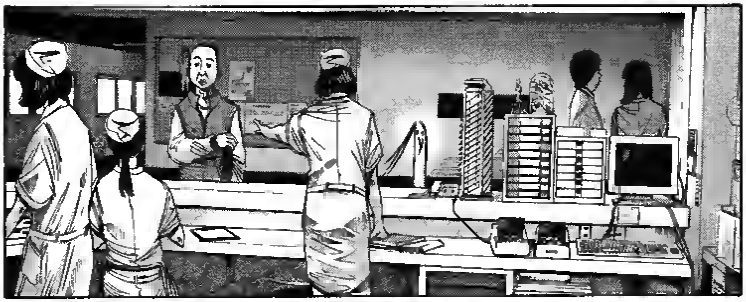

NURSE, THIS MAN'S NOT MY HUSBAND.
HE'S JUST...
A RANDOM PASSERBY WHO HAPPENED TO HELP ME—

I'M...
I'M TERRIBLY SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU SO MUCH TROUBLE
I DON'T BELIEVE WE'LL EVER MEET AGAIN BUT...
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

I'M FINE NOW BY MYSELF,
THANKS TO YOUR HELP SO...

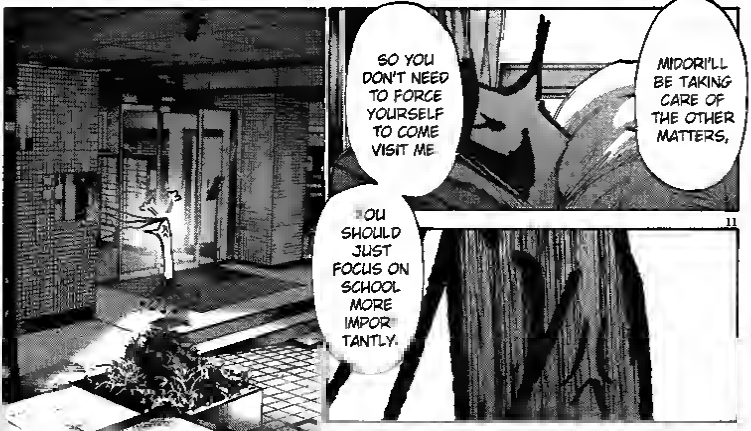
FAREWELL.

二病院



I'M,
REALLY SORRY,
FOR SAYING ALL THOSE THINGS TO YOU YESTERDAY.

AH, I FEEL A LITTLE FAINT.
THE PAIN-KILLERS MUST BE WORKING...


MIDORI'LL BE TAKING CARE OF THE OTHER MATTERS,
SO YOU DON'T NEED TO FORCE YOURSELF TO COME VISIT ME.
YOU SHOULD JUST FOCUS ON SCHOOL MORE IMPORTANTLY.

NOW, LET'S TAKE YOUR BLOOD PRESSURE.
HUSBAND'S ALSO GETTING AN OPERATION ON HIS BLOOD VESSELS NEXT WEEK
YOU GOTTA PUT YOUR HEALTH FIRST...
GO CLEAN UP BED #5.
MOM, GET WEEL SOON!!!

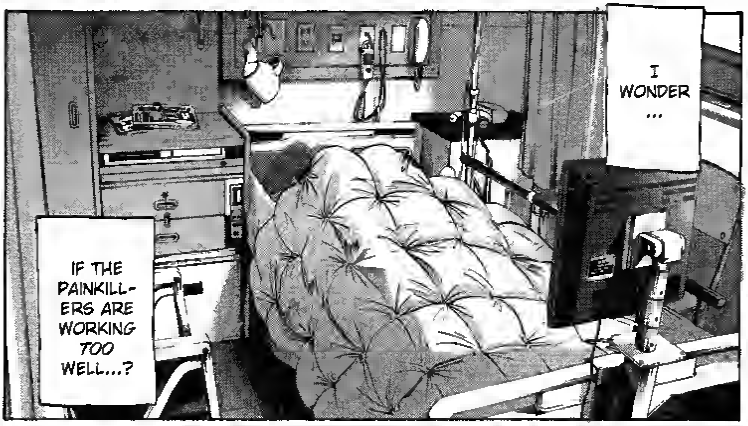
AGH. I DON'T LIKE IT HERE... IF I STAY HERE ANY LONGER, I'M GOING TO START THIKING UNNECESSARY THOUGHTS...

AHH...

I...

FEEL SO ALONE...

RIGHT NOW...

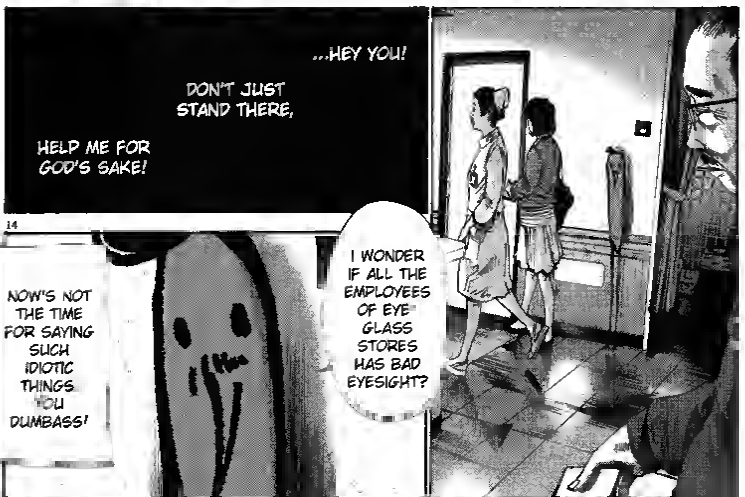


I NEED TO PEE...

BUT IT'S SO EMBARASSING...

TO ASK SOMEONE TO HELP ME GO PEE...!!!

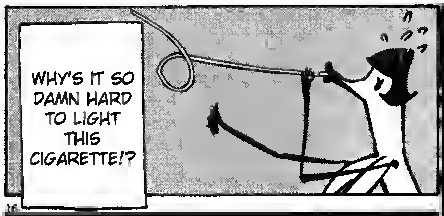
IT'S ONLY JUST A COUPLE METERS TO THE WASH-ROOM,
BUT IT FEELS LIKE I'M RISKING MY LIFE HERE...!


...HEY YOU!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE,
HELP ME FOR GOD'S SAKE!
14
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR SAYING SUCH IDIOTIC THINGS YOU DUMBASS!
I WONDER IF ALL THE EMPLOYEES OF EYE GLASS STORES HAS BAD EYESIGHT?

.. HMM?
...MAYBE I GOT ONE TOO MANY PAINKILLER SHOTS...?
WHY'RE YOU EVEN HERE!?
WAIT A MINUTE...

AH, FORGET ABOUT THAT, I NEED TO GO!
GO...? WHERE WAS I GOING AGAIN?
...FOREIGNERS SURE ARE BIG...

OR THE STEW'S GOING TO BOIL OVER!
I HAVE TO GO!
NO, NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THAT!



JUST HOLD ON A SEC...

MAYBE MY BRAIN'S JUST GETTING ALL MIXED UP...

ALRIGHT, JUST CALM DOWN...

AH, THAT'S RIGHT! I'LL TAKE A SMOKE...

AHH... MIDORI'S GOING TO GET MAD AT ME AGAIN...

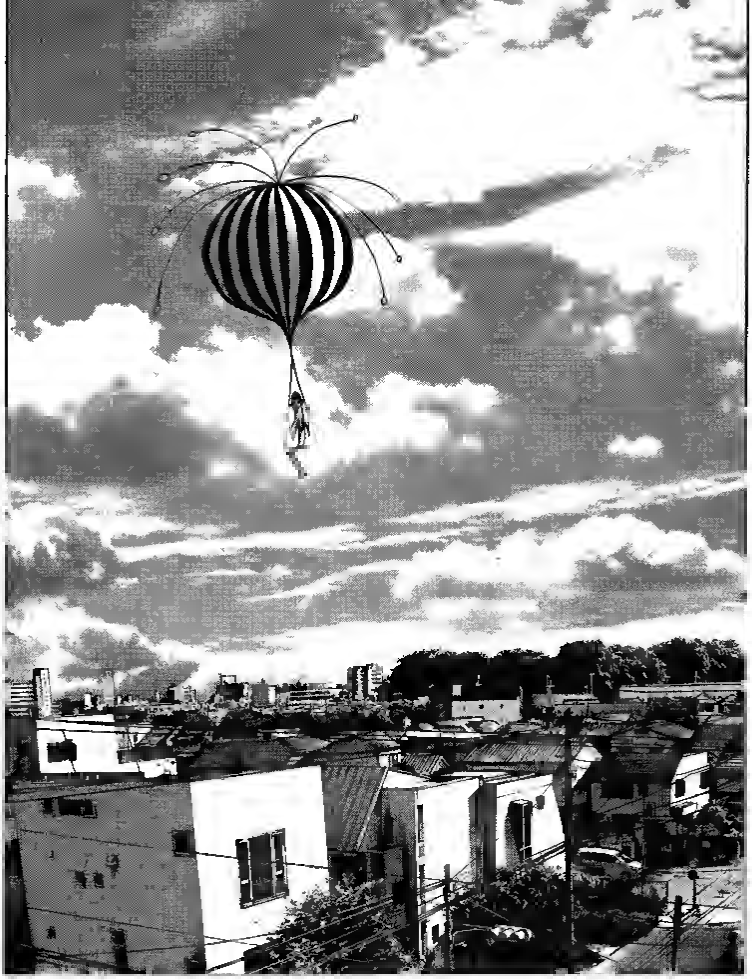
AND YOU CAN'T SMOKE IN THE HOSPITAL OUTSIDE THE SMOKING ROOM...

...WAIT. AREN'T I IN THE HOSPITAL?

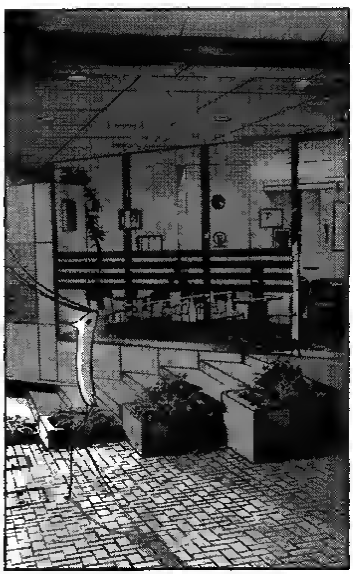
I WONDER WHY I COULDN'T GET ALONG WITH THEM BEFORE?

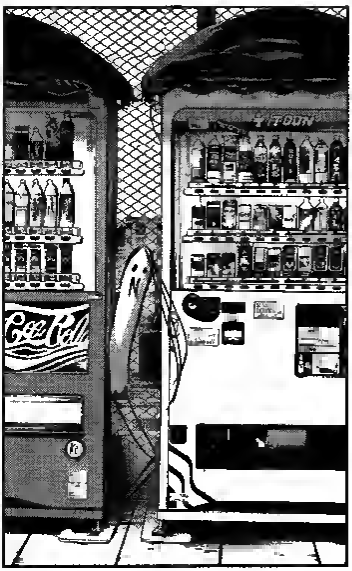
BUT MAYBE ONCE I PATCH THINGS UP, WE CAN GO ON THAT TRIP.

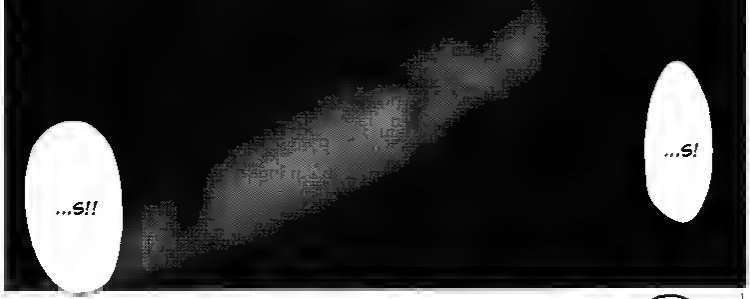
THE SKIES... THE SEAS... THE SUN AND THE WINDS...

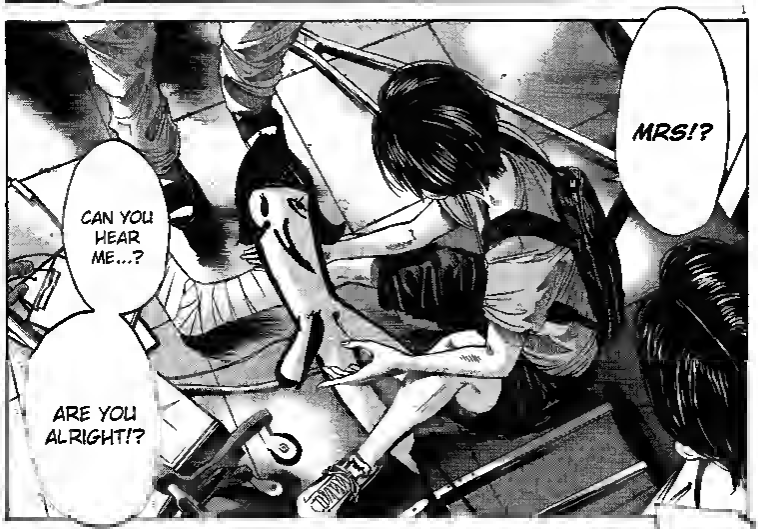


I'M SURE THAT THE BREEZE BLOWING PAST MY HEAD WILL FEEL VERY NICE



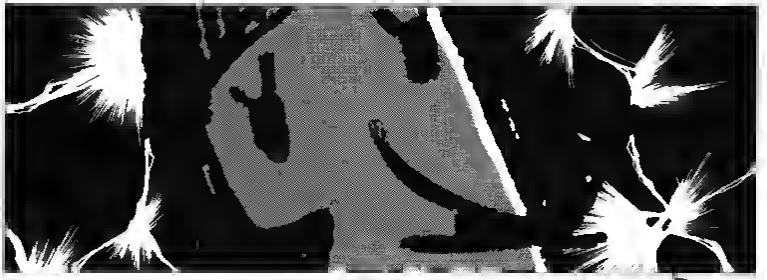

4 FOOT
Coca-Cola


...S!
...S!!


MRS!?
CAN YOU HEAR ME...?
ARE YOU ALRIGHT!?

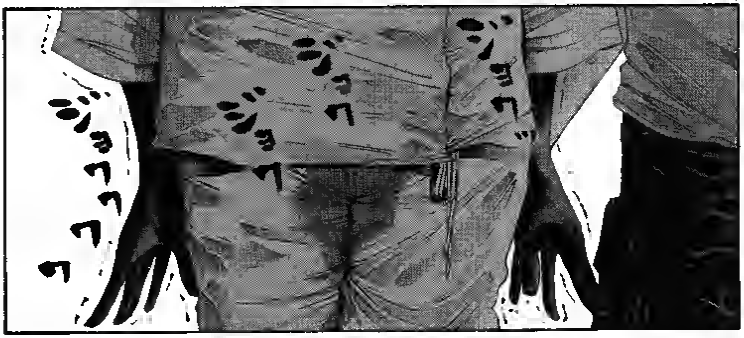
CALL ME MS. DAMN IT...
...MRS?
SOME ONE!!
SOMEONE CALL THE NURSE!

OH THANK GOD...
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?



MS. ONO-DERA!
WHAT HAPP-ENED!?
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO JUST LIE DOWN AND REST!?

WELL, LET ME HELP YOU UP FOR NOW.
HERE, GRAB ON TO ME.
...OK.
...AH!



SORRY FOR SHOWING YOU SOMETHING SO EMBARASSING

GUESS I CAN'T BECOME A BRIDE ANYMORE ...
EVEN THOUGH I'VE BEEN MARRIED ONCE BEFORE, HAHA...
AH NO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT AT ALL MA'AM.
I'VE CAUSED OTHERS MY FAIR SHARE OF TROUBLE TOO WHILE HOSPITALIZED

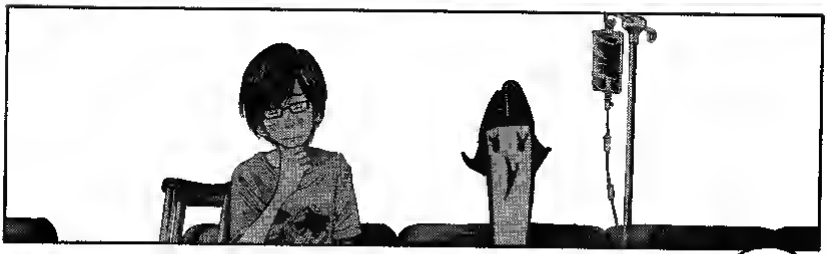
UMM ..
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR LEG?

I REALLY THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE RIGHT THEN AND THERE
I WAS SENT FLYING PRETTY HIGH
OH THIS? HAHA...
I HIT A CAR WHILE ON MY BICYCLE AS I WAS COMING HOME FROM SCHOOL..
HA...
WELL, THANK HEAVENS YOU GOT OUT OF IT WITH ONLY THAT MUCH

YEAH, THAT'S TRUE...
EVEN THOUGH IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO QUIT THE SOCCER CLUB NOW.
AT LEAST NOW I CAN FOCUS ON MY ENTRANCE EXAMS
...
HMM?

OH, YOU...
YOU'RE PRETTY BAD AT TRYING TO FLATTER SOMEONE.
AH, NO, I WASN'T...
IT'S FINE
5
SO... ARE YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL?
OH, THAT'S THE SAME AS MY SON
YES, I'M 16. I'M A FRESH-MAN.
REALLY? IS THAT SO... YOU LOOK MUCH TOO YOUNG TO HAVE A SON THAT OLD

I DON'T MIND...
IF I'M GOING TO WITHER AWAY, I'D RATHER IT BE SOONER THAN LATER...
THIS DAMN THING CALLED "WOMAN-HOOD," BROUGHT ME NOTHING BUT MIS-FORTUNE...



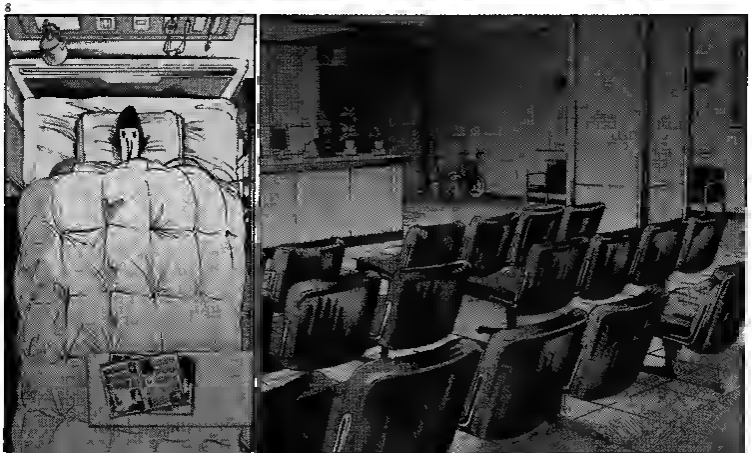
UM, WELL..
IF IT'S ALRIGHT WITH YOU, I WOULDN'T MIND LISTENING.
OH, WHAT AM I SAYING!?
I'M SURE YOU DON'T WANT TO HEAR THE LIFESTORY OF SOME MIDDLE-AGED WOMAN...
COULD YOU JUST FORGET WHAT I SAID A MOMENT AGO?
NO..
THAT'S FINE... I HAVE TO GET BACK TO MY BED NOW ANYWAYS.

AH, SHALL I HELP YOU TO YOUR ROOM?
OH, NO, NO! YOU SHOULD WORRY MORE ABOUT YOURSELF INSTEAD.
UGH...
WHAT AM I SAYING...?
UMM...
CAN I.. SEE YOU AGAIN SOME TIME?

MMHMM PROBABLY.
I'LL BE COMING HERE TOMORROW. THE DAY AFTER THAT AND SO FORTH.

AH...
UMM...
I DON'T THINK I ASKED YOU FOR YOUR NAME YET—

IT'S HARUMI.
HARUMI SHUNTAROU.

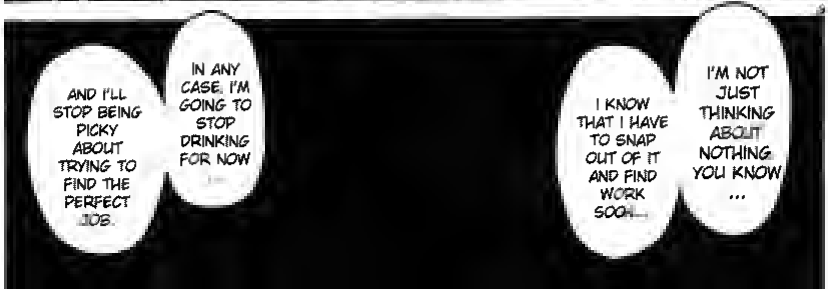


BUT WHEN HE TALKS... EACH WORD OF HIS...

IT'S SOMEHOW COMFORTING.

WHAT AM I, 16?

I'M DIFFERENT FROM PUNPUN...

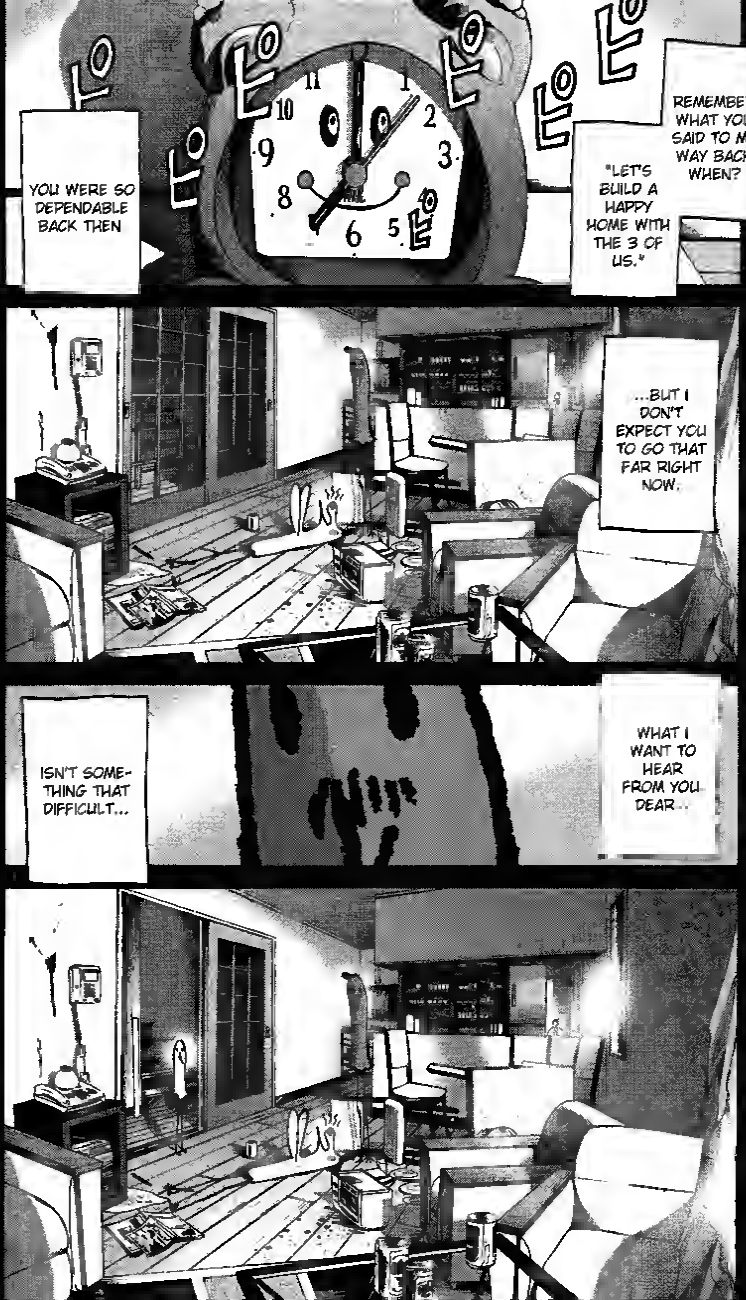

AND I'LL STOP BEING PICKY ABOUT TRYING TO FIND THE PERFECT JOB.
IN ANY CASE, I'M GOING TO STOP DRINKING FOR NOW
I KNOW THAT I HAVE TO SNAP OUT OF IT AND FIND WORK SOON...
I'M NOT JUST THINKING ABOUT NOTHING, YOU KNOW ...

I'VE BECOME SCARED OF GOING OUTSIDE...
I FEEL LIKE MY BODY JUST TURNS INTO MUSH WHENEVER I'M IN PUBLIC...
BUT YOU KNOW ...
AFTER RISKING MY LIFE AND WORKING DAY IN AND DAY OUT FOR SOME FEW DECADES...
IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS...
IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS!!!
IT WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE LIKE THIS...
UMM... DEAR...?
...AND YOU WANTED TO FLIRT AROUND WITH OTHER MEN MORE?
DON'T START FLINGING WILD ACCUSATIONS AT ME...
DON'T...
I WANTED TO PLAY MORE!
I WANTED TO GO SHOPPING MORE!

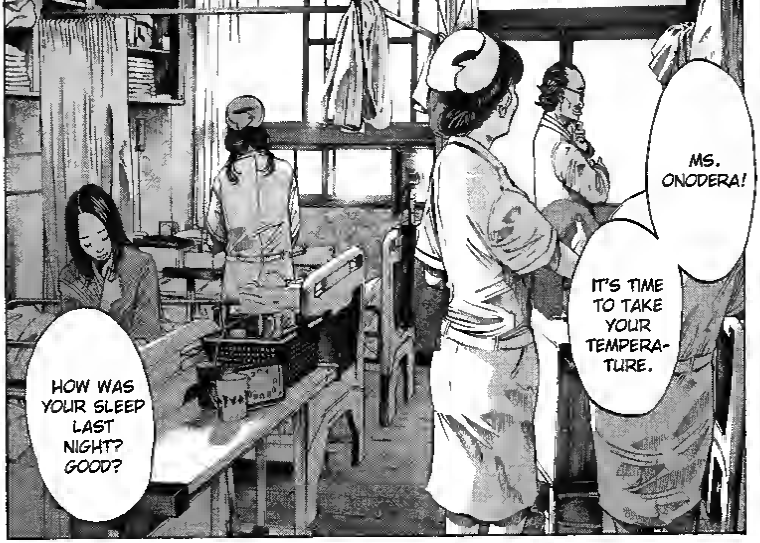
SORRY...
I'M NOT QUITE MYSELF TOO RIGHT NOW...
...UMM, WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT TO HAVE JUST ONE LAST GLASS OF ALCOHOL...?
HEY,
LET'S JUST SPLIT UP...
I'LL TAKE CARE OF PUNPUN MYSELF...
YOU...
CAN YOU REALLY WORK AND RAISE A CHILD ALL BY YOURSELF?
YOU THE ONE WHO NEVER WANTED A CHILD
ARE NOW SAYING THAT YOU CAN LIVE WITH JUST THE TWO OF YOU TOGETHER!?
I DON'T KNOW...
BUT
I DON'T WANT TO KEEP ON LIVING THIS LONELY LIFE ANYMORE!
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA...
HOW SELFISH THAT IS!?

H...
W...
H-HEY, HEY...
WAIT ...!
W-WHAT'RE YOU...!?
WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!
I'M GOING TO KILL PUNPUN—
AND MYSELF.
OH SHUT UP...
I'M NOT GOING TO ST.. SOMEONE AS PATHETIC AS YOU...
D...
DON'T GET SO DAMN DRAM-ATIC!!!

THEN KILL ME!!!
AAAG GGGH HHHH HH!!!
NM!
GUH!
JUST KILL ME RIGHT HERE AND NOW!!!
KAHH!
GARG GBGG GHHH!
...CAN'T YOU SEE? THIS ISN'T WHAT I REALLY WANT, YOU KNOW
HURRY UP AND REALIZE IT,
DEAR...


YOU WERE SO DEPENDABLE BACK THEN
"LET'S BUILD A HAPPY HOME WITH THE 3 OF US."
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID TO ME WAY BACK WHEN?
...BUT I DON'T EXPECT YOU TO GO THAT FAR RIGHT NOW.
ISN'T SOMETHING THAT DIFFICULT...
WHAT I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU DEAR...

JUST TELL ME THAT THINGS WILL BE ALRIGHT...
THAT YOU'RE SORRY...
PUNPUN ...
I'VE GOT BAD NEWS...
A ROBBER SNUCK INTO OUR HOUSE
AND THAT...
YOU LOVE ME...


MS. ONODERA!
IT'S TIME TO TAKE YOUR TEMPERA-TURE.
HOW WAS YOUR SLEEP LAST NIGHT? GOOD?

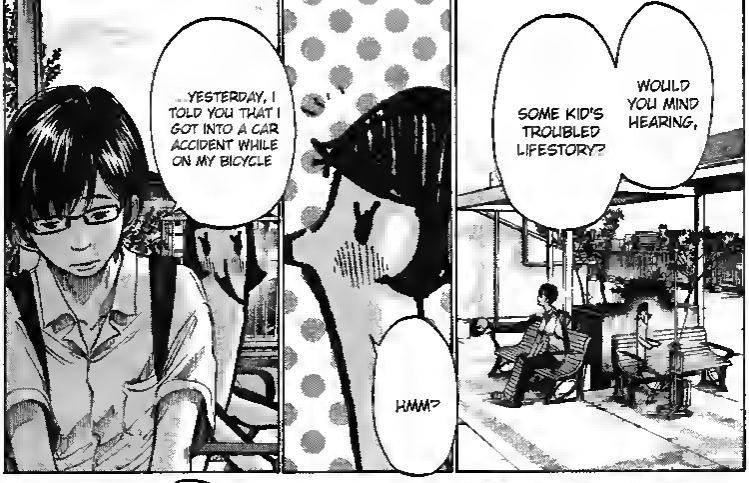
THE WORST.

SO WHY CAN'T I SEEM TO FORGET IT?
...IT'S ALREADY BEEN 5 YEARS.
...AH!

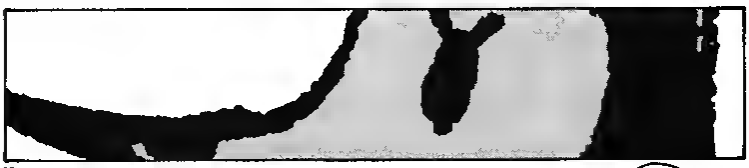
MS ONODERA!

TO HAVE TO COME TO THE HOSPITAL EVERY DAY LIKE THIS...
A BROKEN LEG'S MORE SERIOUS THAN I IMAGINED
WELL, IT MAKES ME HAPPY AT THE VERY LEAST.
HAHA, JUST KIDDING!

UMM... ACTUALLY,
I'M NOT FORCED TO COME AND GET MY LEG CHECKED EVERY DAY..


WOULD YOU MIND HEARING, SOME KID'S TROUBLED LIFESTORY?
HMM?
...YESTERDAY, I TOLD YOU THAT I GOT INTO A CAR ACCIDENT WHILE ON MY BICYCLE

YOU SEE...
MY GIRL-FRIEND WAS RIDING ON THE BACK OF MY BICYCLE THAT TIME...



...AND SHE'S STILL HOSPITAL-IZED HERE.
SHE'S IN A MUCH MORE SEVERE CONDITION THAN ME.

BUT, THAT'S VERY ADMIRABLE OF YOU,
TO COME AND VISIT HER EVERYDAY...
NO...
...I STILL HAVEN'T VISITED HER ONCE...
HUH?
WHY NOT?

CHAPTER 60

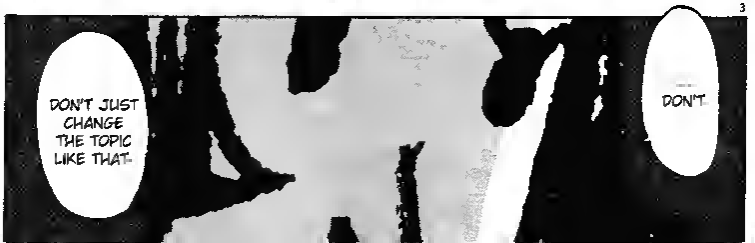
...I JUST GET SO SCARED
I DON'T KNOW HOW I SHOULD ACT WHEN I SEE HER AGAIN
JUST WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO...
AFTER RUINING HER FACE...

SHE WAS THE FIRST GIRL-FRIEND I EVER HAD,
AND WE'D ONLY BEEN DATING FOR A MONTH,
SO I WAS PRETTY EXCITED TO BE RIDING ON A BIKE WITH HER.

2
AT FIRST, SHE TRIED TO STOP ME BY SAYING THAT IT WAS DANGEROUS,
BUT I WANTED TO ACT COOL BY PEDALLING FASTER AND FASTER..

JUST THEN,
A CAR POPPED UP FROM THE SIDE..
AND BY THE TIME I COME TO MY SENSES, I'M LYING ON THE GROUND,
AND I COULD HEAR HER CRYING..

...L-LET'S STOP TALKING ABOUT THIS!
MS. ONODERA, TELL ME MORE ABOUT THAT STORY YOU WERE TELLING ME A MINUTE AGO
ABOUT HOW YOU MET YOUR HUSBAND!
DIDN'T YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT SNEAKING INTO A SWAPPING PARTY BEFORE YOU LEFT FOR ITALY?


...DON'T
DON'T JUST CHANGE THE TOPIC LIKE THAT-

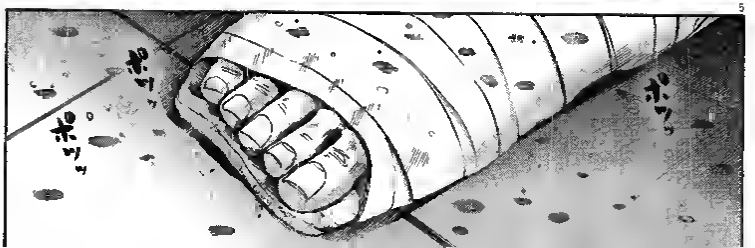
NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO JUST LOITER AROUND AND TALK TO SOME OLD WOMAN...
HURRY AND GO APOLOGIZE TO HER...

IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT SHE'LL FORGIVE ME NO MATTER HOW MUCH I SAY SORRY...
BUT...

NO, I'M NOT LIKE THAT...
MAYBE YOU'RE ACTUALLY THINKING, "WHY ME? WHY DO I HAVE TO BE IN THIS SITUATION!?"
ARE YOU ONLY PRETENDING TO BE CONCERNED FOR HER WHEN YOU'RE ONLY WORRIED ABOUT YOURSELF...?
IS BEING FORGIVEN ALL YOU CARE ABOUT...?

...THEN GO!!!
BUT...
BUT IF...

IF SHE ENDS UP HATING ME...
I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...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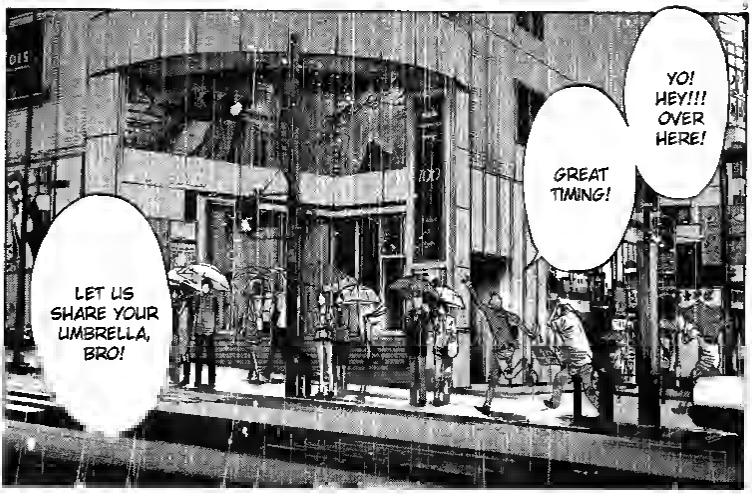
YOU KNOW, FOR THE LAST WHILE OR SO...
ALL YOU'VE BEEN SAYING IS NOTHING BUT IFS, BUTS, AND MAYBES...
JUST WHAT GOOD'LL WORRYING DO IF YOU HAVEN'T EVEN BOTHERED TO FIND OUT YET...?
6
WHAT MATTERS IS NOW!
BECAUSE IT'S THE PRESENT THAT LEADS US TO OUR FUTURES!
MS. ONODERA ...

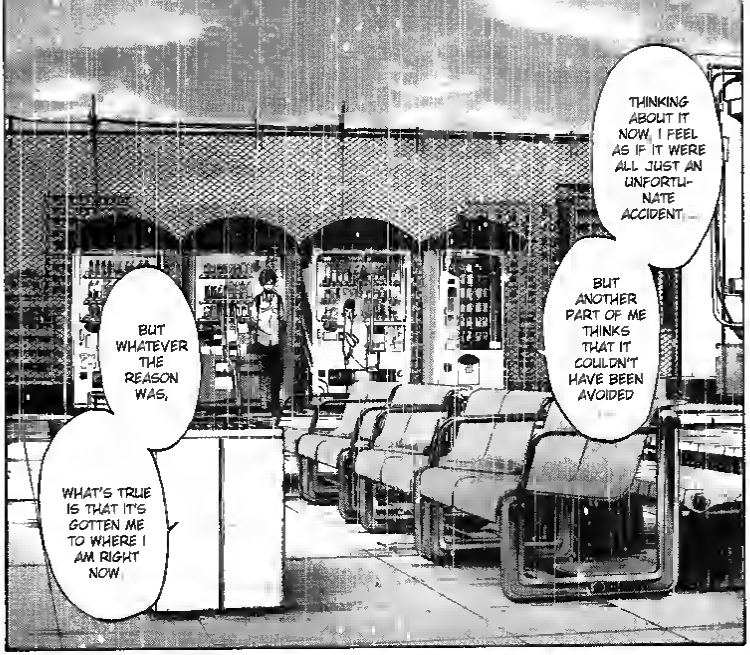
JUST WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ...
OF HOW I FEEL...
TELL HER, THAT THINGS WILL BE ALRIGHT
THAT YOU'RE SORRY
AND THAT YOU LOVE HER... THAT'S ALL YOU NEED TO SAY SO HURRY GO SEE HER
HARUMI, IF YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TRIED YET,
THEN YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE SAD AND WORRY

AGHH!
MS ONODERA ISN'T HERE AGAIN!
CAN YOU HELP ME LOOK FOR HER?
THAT WOMAN IS SUCH A HANDFUL AS ALWAYS!
OH, I NEVER KNEW THAT... WAS SHE IN FOR PNEUMOTHO-RAX THAT TIME TOO?
OH? MS. ONODERA WAS HOSPITALIZED HERE ONCE BEFORE?
NO, NO
IT WAS DOMESTIC ABUSE FROM HER HUSBAND
MMHMM, AND SHE EVEN FELL OFF THE EMERGENCY STAIRCASE BACK THEN! CAUSED SUCH A PANIC!

I DON'T KNOW WHY IT IS...
BUT I GUESS BOYS ARE ALL LIKE THAT...
HARUMI'S EYES JUST THEN...
WERE THE SAME AS PUNPUN'S...


YO! HEY!!! OVER HERE!
GREAT TIMING!
LET US SHARE YOUR UMBRELLA, BRO!

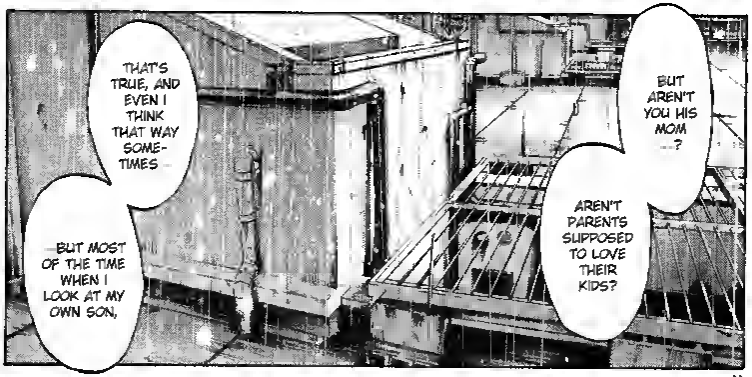
SORRY
IT'S JUST ...
MY EX-HUSBAND USED TO HIT ME A LONG TIME AGO...

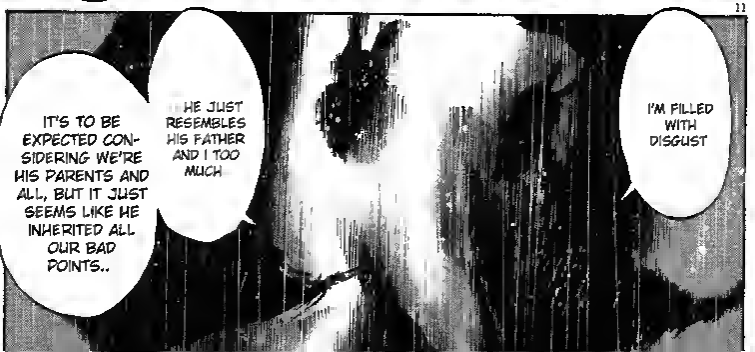

THINKING ABOUT IT NOW, I FEEL AS IF IT WERE ALL JUST AN UNFORTU-NATE ACCIDENT...
BUT ANOTHER PART OF ME THINKS THAT IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN AVOIDED
BUT WHATEVER THE REASON WAS,
WHAT'S TRUE IS THAT IT'S GOTTEN ME TO WHERE I AM RIGHT NOW.

AFTER JUST STANDING BY AND LEAVING IT ALL UP TO THE PASSAGE OF TIME,
THERE'RE SO MANY THINGS I WANT TO GO BACK AND DO DIFFER-ENTLY...

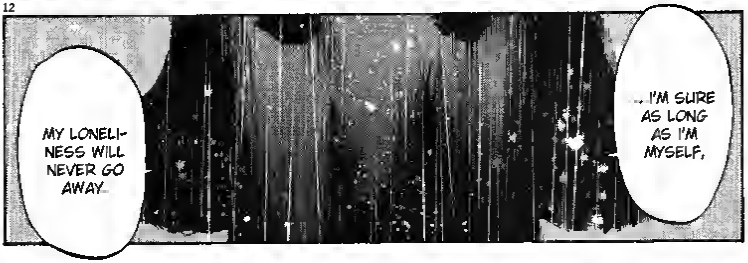
TO BE HONEST,
I STILL HAVE FEEL-INGS FOR MY EX-HUSBAND...
WHAT I TOLD YOU JUST NOW TO SAY TO HER,
WAS ACTUALLY WHAT I WANTED MY HUSBAND TO SAY TO ME...

NO, NEVER...
WE'RE ON VERY BAD TERMS
HAVE YOU EVER SAID ANY OF THIS TO YOUR SON?
I GUESS THAT'S JUST MY OBSTI-NACY,
BUT I'D NEVER TRY TO PATCH THINGS UP WITH HIM MYSELF.


THAT'S TRUE, AND EVEN I THINK THAT WAY SOME-TIMES...
...BUT MOST OF THE TIME WHEN I LOOK AT MY OWN SON,
BUT AREN'T YOU HIS MOM...?
AREN'T PARENTS SUPPOSED TO LOVE THEIR KIDS?


I'M FILLED WITH DISGUST
...HE JUST RESEMBLES HIS FATHER AND I TOO MUCH
IT'S TO BE EXPECTED CON-SIDERING WE'RE HIS PARENTS AND ALL, BUT IT JUST SEEMS LIKE HE INHERITED ALL OUR BAD POINTS..

NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE WANT TO MAKE UP WITH EACH OTHER...
EVEN IF WE UNDERSTAND HOW THE OTHER FEELS,
AS LONG AS WE DON'T FEEL LIKE GIVING IN OURSELVES, WE'LL NEVER MAKE UP.
AND AS THE YEARS GO BY, IT BECOMES EVEN HARDER TO DO SO.


... I'M SURE AS LONG AS I'M MYSELF,
MY LONELINESS WILL NEVER GO AWAY...

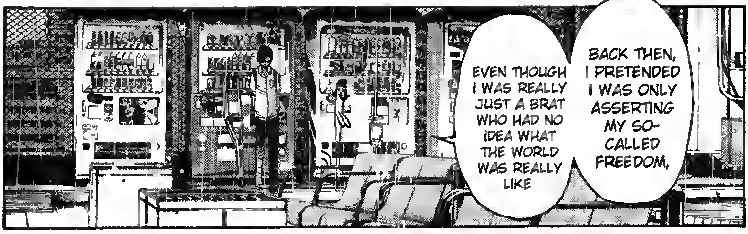
DAMN RAIN...
MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST GO BACK AND HIT THE GYM...

..HEY, AREN'T THOSE GIRLS FROM OUR SCHOOL?
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

HEY, LADIES!
WANNA GO KARAOKE? IT'S FRIDAY!
AH. IT'S MIMURA
YOU KNOW.. THE RUMOURS SAY THAT YOU'RE JUST A DESPERATE VIRGIN

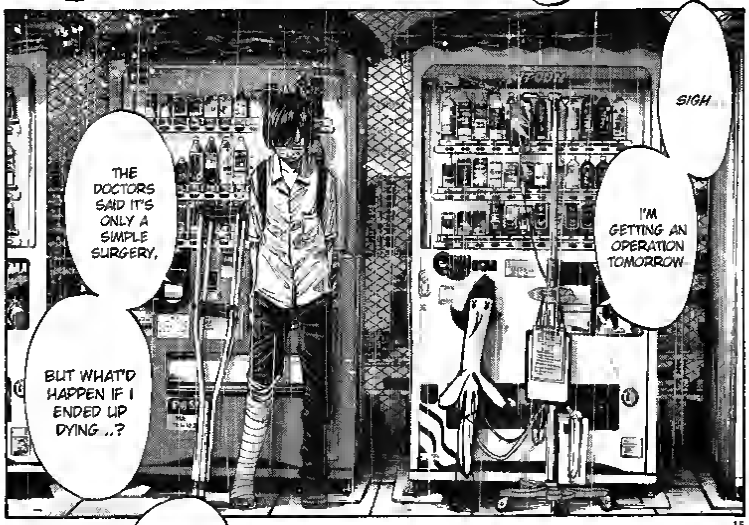
WHA! THAT'S NOT TRUE! MAYBE SHOWING YOU MY LITTLE WOODY WILL CHANGE YOUR MIND!
EWW, TALK ABOUT CREEPY. LET'S GO.

MY MOTHER DIED OF BREAST CANCER WHILE I WAS TRAVELLING OVERSEAS,
BUT I WAS NEVER REALLY CLOSE WITH HER AND SO I WASN'T EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT SAD
I DIDN'T EVEN GO TO HER FUNERAL BUT NOBODY BOTHERED TO CRITICIZE ME FOR IT
MY FATHER AND BROTHER HAD ALREADY THOUGHT OF ME AS A COLD-HEARTED PERSON


BACK THEN, I PRETENDED I WAS ONLY ASSERTING MY SO-CALLED FREEDOM,
EVEN THOUGH I WAS REALLY JUST A BRAT WHO HAD NO IDEA WHAT THE WORLD WAS REALLY LIKE

...SOME PEOPLE TALK OF TRYING TO FIND THEMSELVES
BUT I NEVER ONCE TRIED FINDING MYSELF...
I ALREADY KNEW WELL WHAT A DESPICABLE AND PATHETIC PERSON I WAS
...MAYBE IT WAS THE OTHER WAY AROUND AND I WAS REALLY WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO FIND ME INSTEAD.

EVEN NOW,
I STILL DON'T HAVE A PLACE TO CALL HOME.
IN THE END,
NOT HAVING A PLACE TO CALL HOME, I KEPT RUNNING AWAY

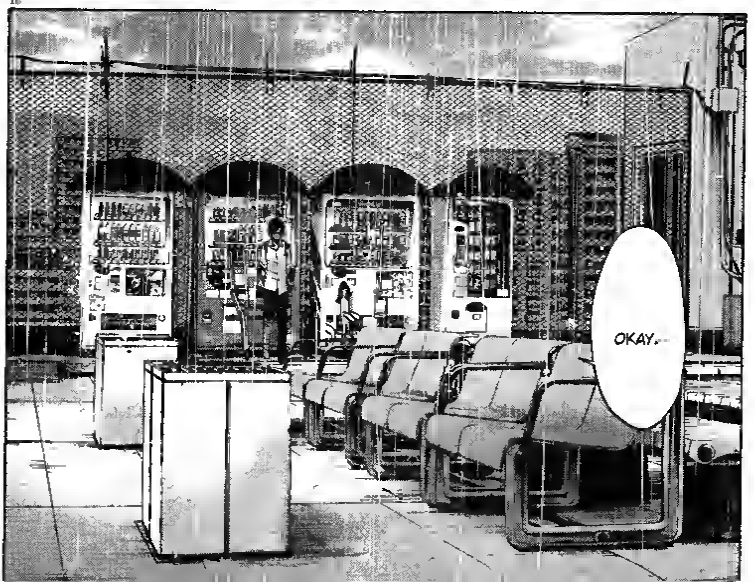

THE DOCTORS SAID IT'S ONLY A SIMPLE SURGERY,
BUT WHAT'D HAPPEN IF I ENDED UP DYING ..?
SIGH
I'M GETTING AN OPERATION TOMORROW

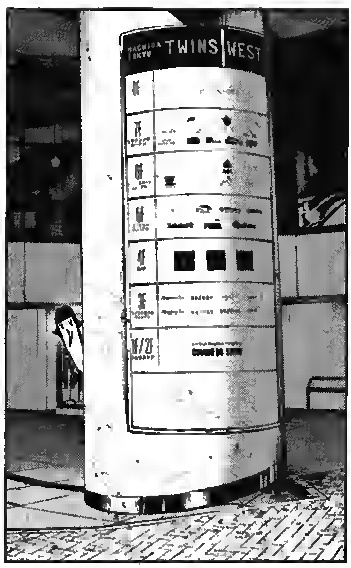
AND EVEN IF THE OPERATION WENT WELL AND I LIVED,
WHAT THEN?
-55191

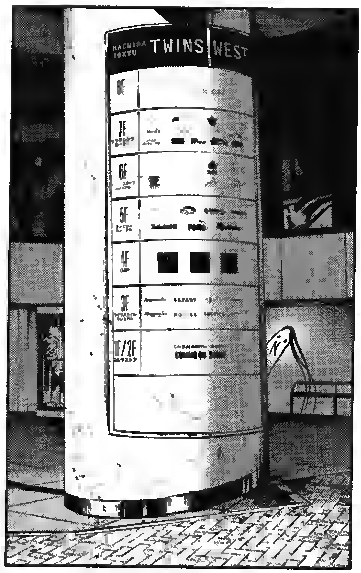
HAHA...
YOU KNOW,
TAKING SHELTER FROM THE RAIN LIKE THIS,
REMINDS ME OF MY ENTIRE LIFE, THAT'S BEEN NOTHING BUT ME TRYING TO RUN AWAY FROM MY LONELINESS AND FEARS.
WHAT A SAD LIFE IT'S BEEN...

MS. ONODERA,
PLEASE...

PLEASE DON'T CRY.


OKAY...


TWINS
WEST


TWINS WEST

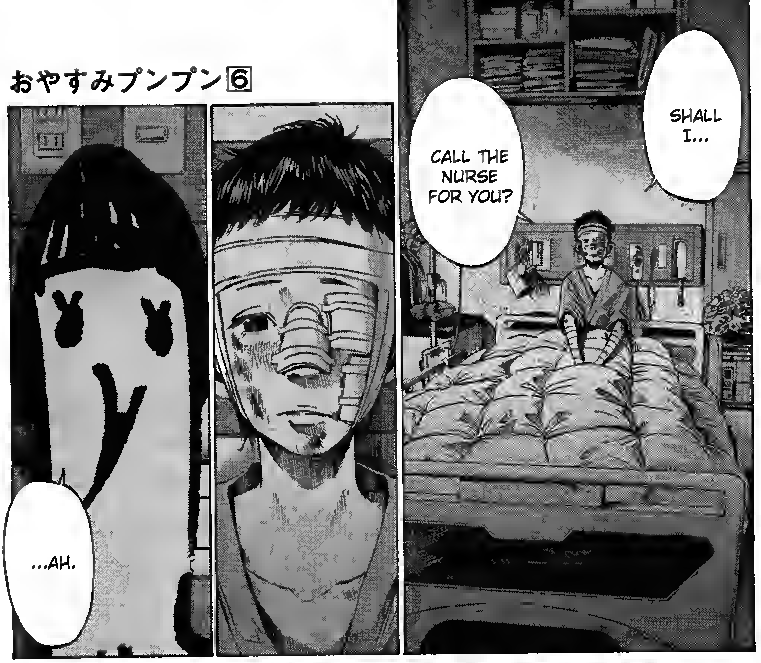
DUDE, I THINK HER BLOOD PRESSURE'S BEEN KIND OF DROPPING.
OH SHIT!
I UHH... I THINK I JUST CUT SOMETHING I WASN'T SUPPOSED TO...
AGHH. SHE WON'T STOP BLEEDING! WHAT DO I DO!?
FUCK. WHAT'S ALL THIS CRAP LEAKING OUT OF HER BODY NOW!?

HEY IS IT JUST ME OR IS THE PATIENT AWAKE?
EH. JUST PUT SOME BAND-AIDS OVER IT IT'LL EVENTUALLY HEAL OVER.
FUCK IT. JUST PUT SOME TAPE OVER HER EYES SHEESH!
YOU WANT ME TO PUT BAND-AIDS ON HER ORGANS?

MAN, I'M SICK AND TIRED OF OPERATIONS.
...HEY, BE A LITTLE... SERIOUS HERE...
I WANNA GO HOME AND PLAY SOME PS3 ALREADY...
WHA! WHAT'RE YOU DOING TO ME!?
NO, WAIT! STOP! NOOO!
HEY. ARE YOU COMING TO THE MIXER NEXT WEEK OR WHAT?

AGHH

IT WAS JUST A DREAM...
UMM—
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?


...AH.
CALL THE NURSE FOR YOU?
SHALL I...

AFTER RUINING HER FACE...

UM...
CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?
HOW SEVERE IS YOUR INJURY...?
THAT'S RIGHT... SHE'S HARUMI'S GIRLFRIEND...
SORRY FOR YELLING ...
I'M FINE, IT'S NOTHING ...
NO...

IT'S NOT THAT BAD...
I'LL BE ABLE TO LEAVE THE HOSPITAL SOON...
BUT THE DOCTOR WHO OPERATED ON ME SAID...
THAT THE SCARS FROM MY STITCHES WILL PROBABLY REMAIN...

DON'T YOU AT LEAST HAVE SOMEONE WHO'LL WORRY ABOUT YOU AND YOUR SCARS...?

EVEN IF YOU'LL STILL BE LEFT WITH SCARS,

DAMN IT, I'M A LITTLE ANNOYED...

I'M ONLY LIVING BY HABIT BECAUSE DYING'S JUST TOO SCARY...

I'M NOT NEEDED BY ANYONE AND I DON'T HAVE ANY GOALS IN MY LIFE...

ME, ON THE OTHER HAND...

ADULTS, KIDS, MEN, WOMEN, AND EVEN ME!

EVERYONE SHOULD JUST KILL THEM-SELVES!

IF YOU DON'T FEEL LIKE LIVING THEN JUST DIE ALREADY!

WHAT THE HELL...!

EVERYONE HAS THAT DAMN SAME INDIFFERENT LOOK ON THEIR FACE!

DON'T...

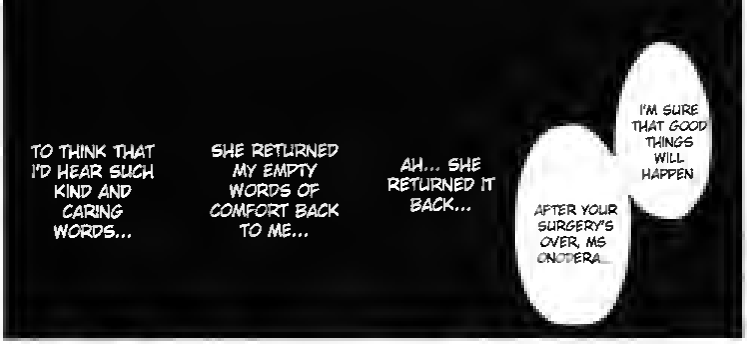
DON'T GET...

SO PLEASE... BRING ALL OF HUMANITY EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT MORE HAPPINESS. PLEASE MAKE MY LIFE JUST THE TINIEST BIT HAPPIER...

OH PLEASE, DEAR LORD! I DIDN'T REALLY MEAN WHAT I JUST SAID, SO PLEASE DON'T SEND ME TO HELL FOR IT...

NO, THAT WAS JUST A LIE...!

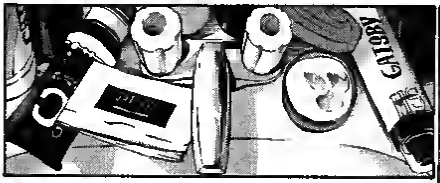
JUST DON'T GET SO DEPRESSED...
BECAUSE THERE'LL BE LOTS AND LOTS OF HAPPY THINGS TO COME WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.
THE HELL AM I SAYING...
I DON'T EVEN REALLY MEAN ANYTHING I'M SAYING... IT'S ALL MEANINGLESS...
...
THANK YOU MS. ONODERA...
I HOPE...
THAT YOU'LL GET WELL SOON TOO...
AH...


AFTER YOUR SURGERY'S OVER, MS ONODERA...
I'M SURE THAT GOOD THINGS WILL HAPPEN
AH... SHE RETURNED IT BACK...
SHE RETURNED MY EMPTY WORDS OF COMFORT BACK TO ME...
TO THINK THAT I'D HEAR SUCH KIND AND CARING WORDS...

I DON'T NEED ANY SYMPATHY!
...STOP!!!

BUT EVEN SO... I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL A LITTLE HAPPY.

IT SEEMS THAT THE RAINY SEASON HAS HIT BOTH OKINAWA AND KYUSHUU QUITE EARLY THIS YEAR...
IT'LL BE RAINING ON AND OFF THROUGHOUT THIS SATURDAY TO MONDAY.


CATALOGY

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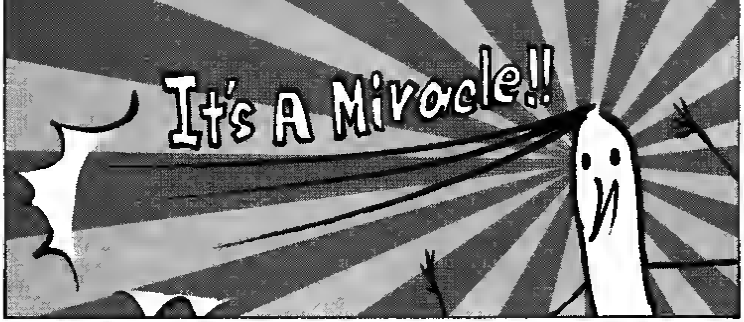
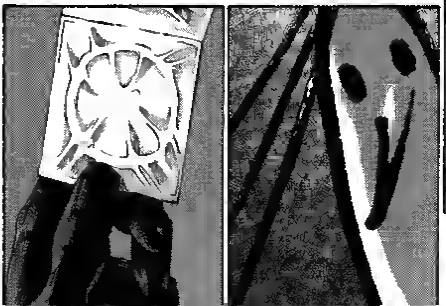
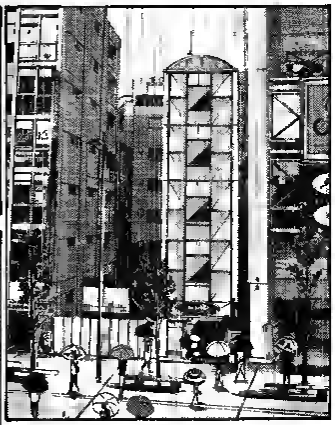
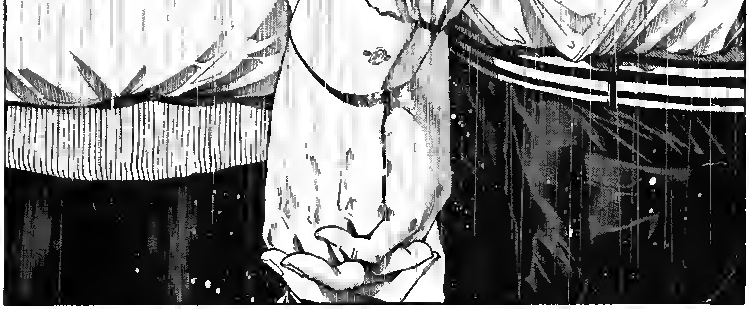
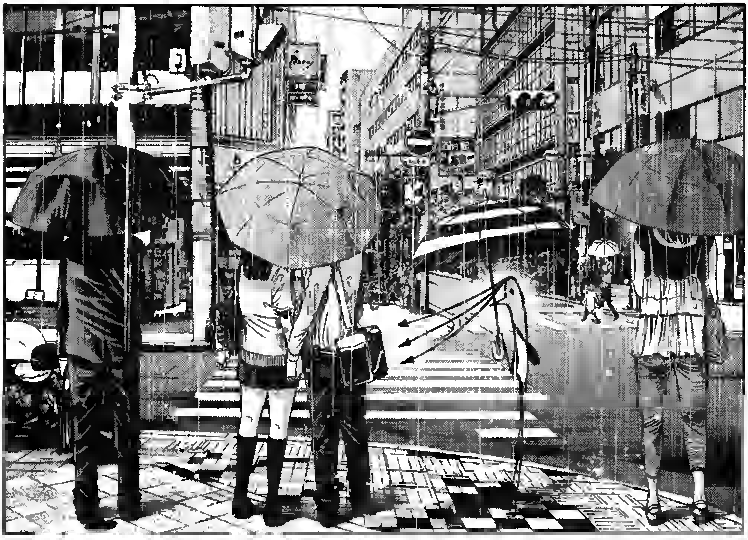

It's A Miracle!!



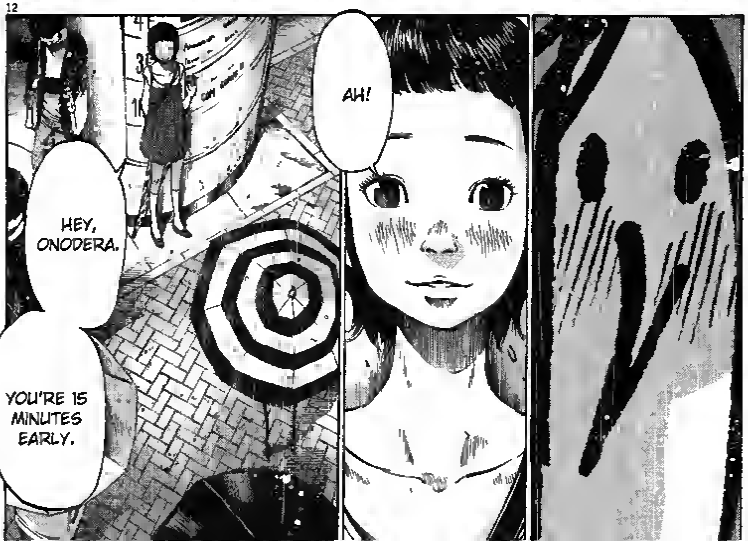
ARGHHDARFFBL!







4F
CAR
3F
SAZABI
No Jiss
1F
COM


AH!
HEY, ONODERA.
YOU'RE 15 MINUTES EARLY.

HMM...
NOT GOOD...
WE CAME A LITTLE TOO EARLY...
MY SISTER'S RUNNING LATE SO SHE'S STILL NOT HERE YET
DO YOU WANT TO,
JUST KILL SOME TIME ELSEWHERE FOR A LITTLE BIT?

ALRIGHT, MS. ONODERA.
WE'LL BE MOVING YOU OVER ON TO THIS BED, OKAY?
ON THREE. ONE... TWO... THREE!

THEN I'LL LEAVE THE REST TO YOU AND THE DOCTORS
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF MY SISTER-IN-LAW
MIDORI...
WHERE'S PUNPUN?
SORRY, I THOUGHT FOR SURE THAT HE'D BE COMING SO I HAVEN'T CALLED HIM

OH...
NO, THAT'S FINE.
I WAS JUST WONDERING

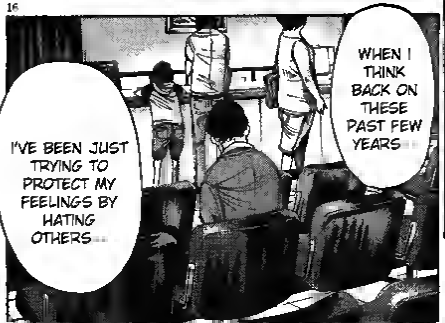
UMM...
NURSE?

7
I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT A CERTAIN GUY RIGHT NOW...
I...

OK...

ONCE I'M DONE WITH MY SURGERY, I WANT TO TELL HIM MY HONEST FEELINGS
IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE DATING AND ALL,
BUT...

16


I'VE BEEN JUST TRYING TO PROTECT MY FEELINGS BY HATING OTHERS...
WHEN I THINK BACK ON THESE PAST FEW YEARS...

I DON'T EVEN THINK THIS HAS ANY-THING DO WITH BEING A MAN NOR A WOMAN
YOU KNOW,
AND YOU BECOME A LITTLE BIT KINDER YOUR-SELF TOO.
YOU BECOME MORE SENSITIVE TO THE KINDNESS OF OTHERS,
LOVE'S A STRANGE THING...
YOU SHOULDN'T EVER FORGET HOW TO LOVE OTHERS...
OR HURT...
EVEN IF YOU'RE BETRAYED,

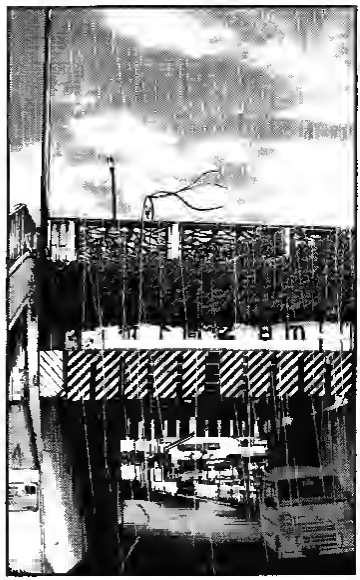
I'M SURE THAT MY SCARS WILL GO AWAY ONE DAY AS WELL...
LIKE AND BE LIKED BY THEM,
IF I GO OUT AND BE KIND TO LOTS AND LOTS OF PEOPLE,

I MEAN, I'M JUST A WITHERED OLD WOMAN AFTER ALL..
HAHA...
I WONDER IF I'LL BE ABLE TO GET OVER HAVING SUCH A DIFFICULT AND TROU-BLED LOVELIFE
BUT...

I WONDER IF,
I WONDER
AND ALSO

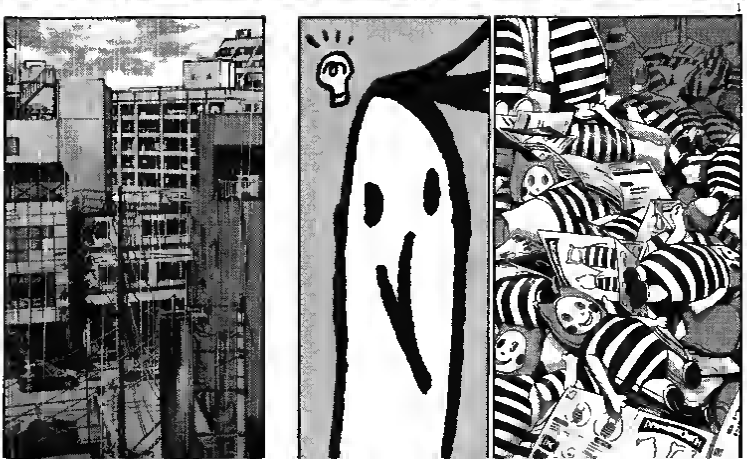
FROM NOW ON?
I'LL BE ABLE TO BECOME A GOOD MOM.

リサイクル one

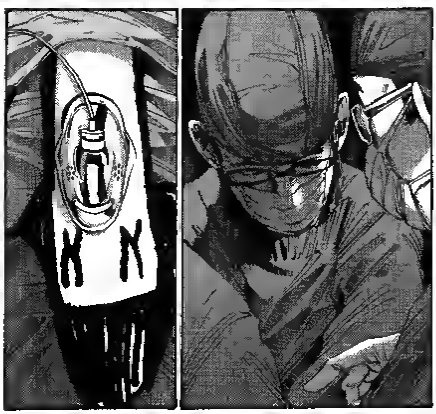


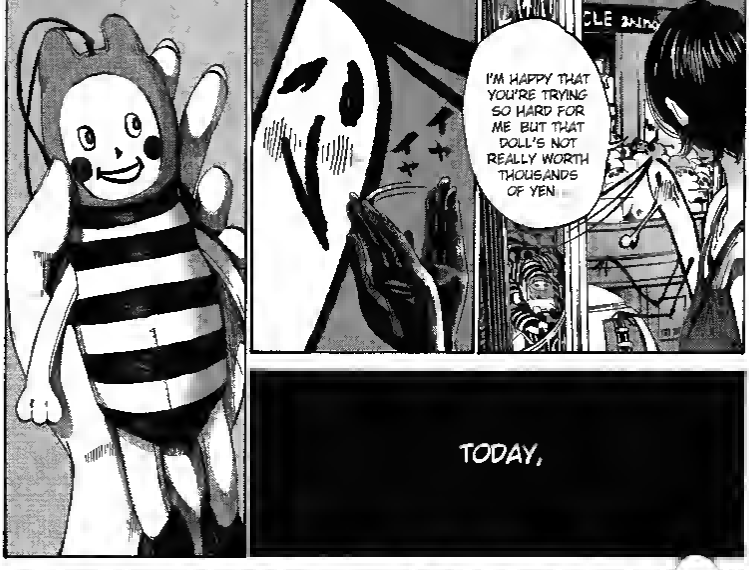
OH LOOK!
IT'S SO CUTE!!!
CHRGEE! SHHHH
BUT I WONDER IF I CAN WIN IT...
I'VE NEVER REALLY DONE THESE CRANE GAMES BEFORE...

CHAPTER 62

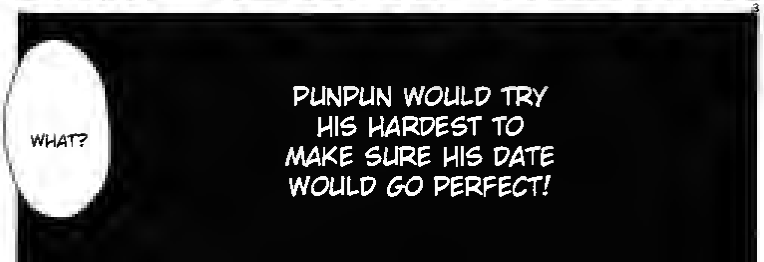


ONO-
DERA...
IT'S FINE,
YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
TRY SO
HARD...




I'M HAPPY THAT YOU'RE TRYING SO HARD FOR ME BUT THAT DOLL'S NOT REALLY WORTH THOUSANDS OF YEN
TODAY,

MNN...
I FEEL KIND OF BAD FOR MAKING YOU SPEND SO MUCH MONEY...
BUT I PROMISE TO CHERISH IT FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE..!


WHAT?
PUNPUN WOULD TRY HIS HARDEST TO MAKE SURE HIS DATE WOULD GO PERFECT!

IT'S FINE!
I CAN PAY FOR MYSELF!
IN FACT, I SHOULD PAY FOR YOU AFTER WHAT HAP PENED AT THE ARCADES!
NO NO
NO
FINE...
BUT I'LL DEFINITELY PAY YOU BACK SOMEHOW OR OTHER!
...YOU KNOW,
THE PAST 2 MONTHS JUST FLEW BY, DIDN'T IT?
JUST WHEN WE WERE FINALLY DONE WITH MIDTERMS, WE NOW HAVE FINALS TO WORRY ABOUT

... I'M SURE WE'LL BE STUDYING FOR UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMS IN NO TIME
I WONDER IF EVERYONE'S ALREADY SECRETLY STUDYING FOR THEM?
GUESS I SHOULD FIND A GOOD CRAM SCHOOL SOON...
HAVE YOU DECIDED ON WHICH CRAM SCHOOL TO GO TO YET, ONODERA?

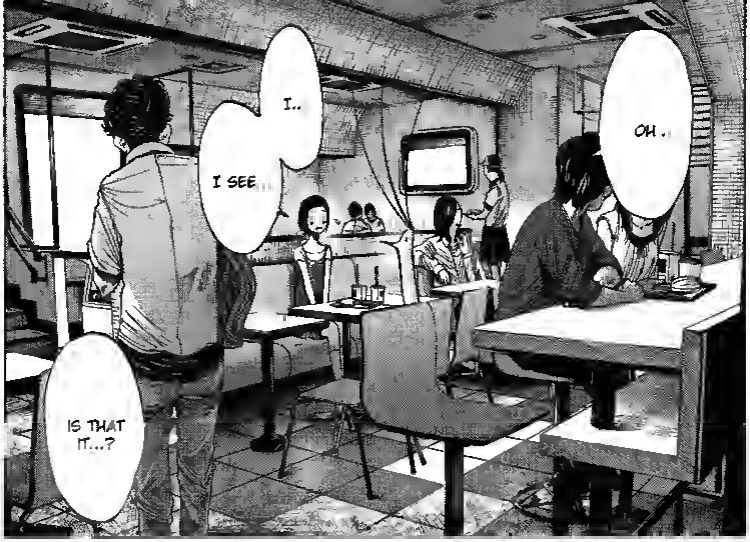
HMM?
ARE YOU LISTENING?
HUH?
THAT'S KIND OF A SUDDEN THING TO ASK...
WHAT DO I DO IN MY SPARE TIME? HMM...

IN A PANIC PUNPUN QUICK-WITTEDLY CHANGED THE TOPIC BY ASKING
SO WHAT DO YOU NORMALLY LIKE TO DO ON WEEKENDS OR WHEN YOU HAVE FREE TIME, KANIE?"

I MEAN, THERE'RE SO MANY PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO LIVE POOR LIFESTYLES WITH VERY LITTLE FREEDOMS
AND SINCE I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE BORN IN A FIRST-WORLD COUNTRY LIKE JAPAN, I WANT TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE LESS FORTUNATE...
WELL, IT'S STILL JUST AN IDEA, AND NOT A VERY CONCRETE ONE AT THAT...
BUT I ACTUALLY WANT TO VOLUNTEER OVERSEAS WHEN I GROW UP

AFTER ALL, COMMUNICATION IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WHEN YOU'RE WORKING WITH PEOPLE, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY I TRY MY BEST TO STUDY ENGLISH IN MY SPARE TIME.

6
EVEN AFTER THINKING VERY VERY HARD PUNPUN COULD ONLY ANSWER BACK.
"UMM... I WATCH TV AND PLAY SOME VIDEO GAMES..."
ONODERA?
WHAT ABOUT YOU,
PUNPUN WAS LEFT SPEECHLESS AT SUCH A SINCERE AND SERIOUS ANSWER, WHICH FAR EXCEEDED HIS EXPECTATIONS.



LIKE A SHAMELESS PERSON WITHOUT ANY MORALS!!?

WAIT, DOESN'T THAT MAKE ME SEEM...

COME CLOSER INSIDE THE UMBRELLA
YOUR BAG'S GOING TO GET SOAKED IF YOU STAND ALL THE WAY OUT THERE
IT MAKES ME HAPPY.
THAT YOU'RE BEING SO KIND TO ME BUT...
NEVER MIND,
IT'S NOTHING.

SORRY I'M NOT THE BEST TALKER..
I ONLY HAVE SISTERS SO I DON'T KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT BOYS...
I CAN UNDER-STAND GUYS LIKE MIMURA JUST FINE BUT,
WITH YOU, I'M NOT QUITE SURE WHAT TO SAY...

BUT HE SOMEHOW FELT MORALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR IT ALL THE SAME.

ABOUT THE FACT THAT THEY WEREN'T CLICKING TOGETHER,

HE WASN'T SURE IF HE FELT ANNOYED OR SORRY,

...PUNPUN FELT THE SAME WAY.

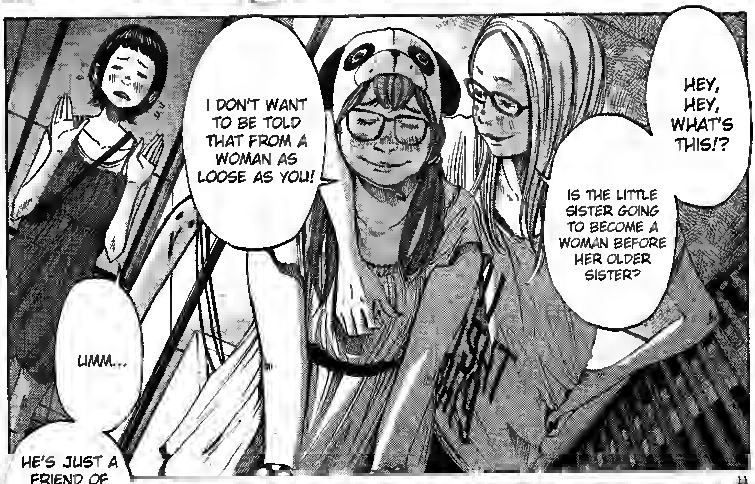
BECAUSE IT WAS STRANGELY SO MUCH STIFFER THAN USUAL, PUNPUN NAMED IT THE SUPER BONER.

NOT ONLY THAT, PUNPUN WORRIED WHETHER OR NOT KANIE HAD NOTICED HIS PENIS WHICH HAD HARDENED UP FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW.

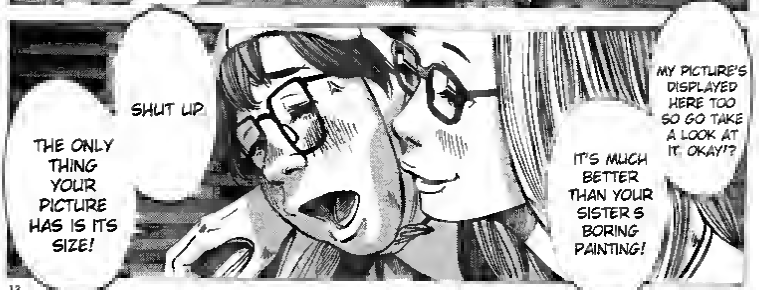
AZUSA!
OVER HERE!

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT!
SIS, YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T BE LATE LIKE THIS. .!
IT'S NOT MY FAULT! BLAME NANJOU FOR BEING LATE!

AH, AZUSA! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR AWHILE!
I HEARD YOU GOT INTO THE SAME HIGHSCHOOL AS ME AND YOUR SIS
CON-GRATS!
YOU'VE CHANGED SO MUCH, SACHI YOU EVEN DIED YOUR HAIR!
HMM..?

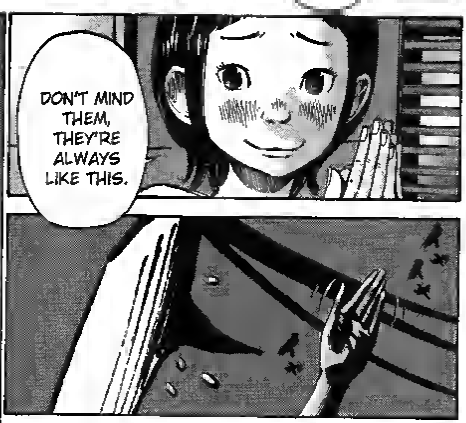

HEY, HEY, WHAT'S THIS!?
I DON'T WANT TO BE TOLD THAT FROM A WOMAN AS LOOSE AS YOU!
IS THE LITTLE SISTER GOING TO BECOME A WOMAN BEFORE HER OLDER SISTER?
UMM...
HE'S JUST A FRIEND OF MINE FROM SCHOOL SO DON'T GET ANY WEIRD IDEAS, PLEASE...

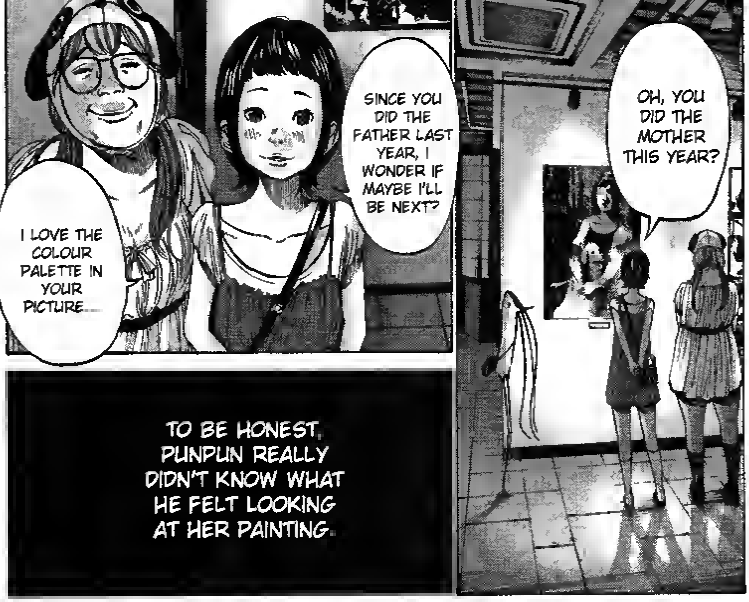
SORRY ABOUT THIS, ONODERA ...
LET ME INTRO-DUCE THEM PROP-ERLY.
THIS IS [redacted] SISTER, MIYUKI.
AND THIS IS HER OLD HIGH SCHOOL CLASSMATE NANJOU SACHI.


MY PICTURE'S DISPLAYED HERE TOO SO GO TAKE A LOOK AT IT, OKAY!?
IT'S MUCH BETTER THAN YOUR SISTER'S BORING PAINTING!
SHUT UP.
THE ONLY THING YOUR PICTURE HAS IS ITS SIZE!

12

Mother
Rabbit (Miyuki)


DON'T MIND THEM, THEY'RE ALWAYS LIKE THIS.

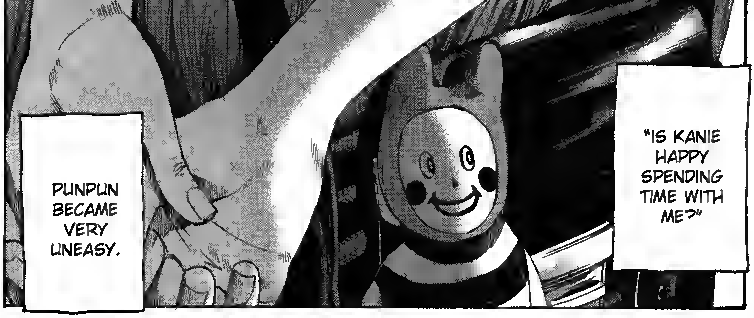

I LOVE THE COLOUR PALETTE IN YOUR PICTURE...
SINCE YOU DID THE FATHER LAST YEAR, I WONDER IF MAYBE I'LL BE NEXT?
OH, YOU DID THE MOTHER THIS YEAR?

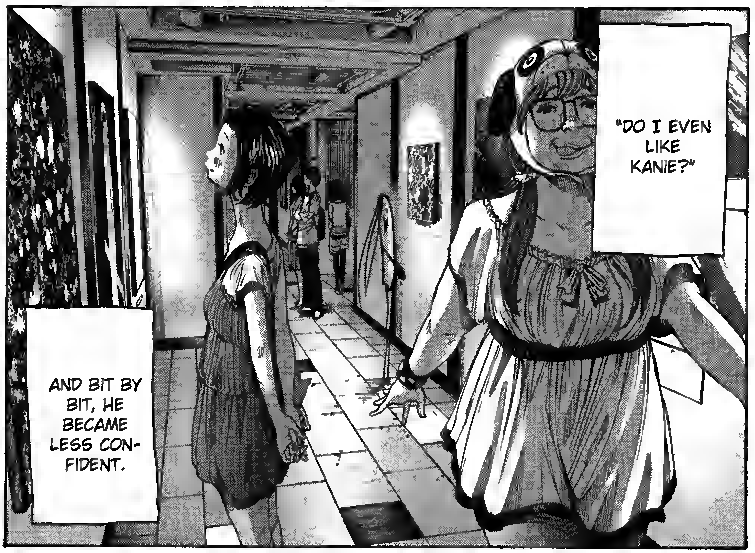
TO BE HONEST, PUNPUN REALLY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HE FELT LOOKING AT HER PAINTING.

PUNPUN DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO THINK ANYMORE.

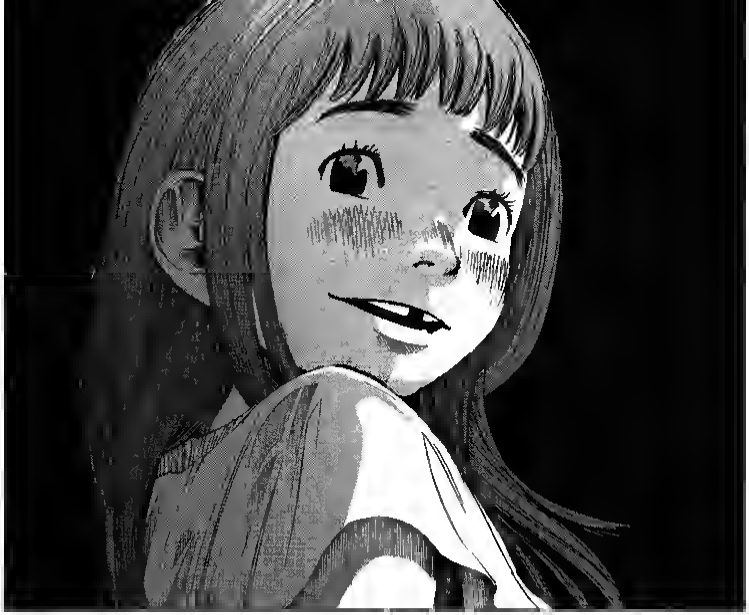
BUT WOULD SAYING THAT REALLY HELP THINGS AT ALL?

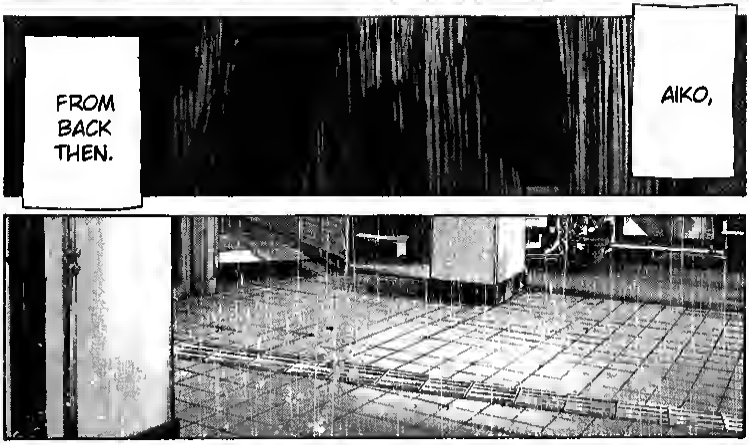
I FEEL THE SAME WAY TOO! YEAH, FAMILY'S THE BEST! WOO!!!


"IS KANIE HAPPY SPENDING TIME WITH ME?"
PUNPUN BECAME VERY UNEASY.


"DO I EVEN LIKE KANIE?"
AND BIT BY BIT, HE BECAME LESS CONFIDENT.

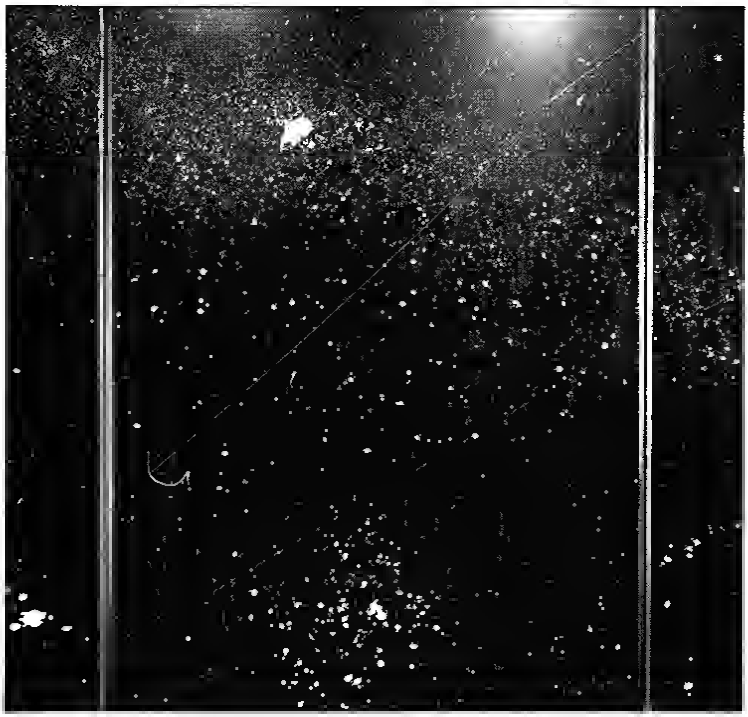
AT THAT MOMENT, THE ONE WHO POPPED INTO PUNPUN'S MIND WAS...
DOES IT REALLY FEEL LIKE THIS WHEN YOU LIKE A PERSON?





PUNPUN HATED HIMSELF FOR THINKING THAT.

"I DON'T CARE IF IT'S JUST ONCE, I WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN."



"Milky Way"

Nanjou Sachi

CHAPTER 63

PUNPUN HAD A FEELING THAT HE HAD SEEN THIS SAME STARRY NIGHT SKY ONCE BEFORE.

...THAT'S RIGHT, IT WAS BACK WHEN HE WAS STILL IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

HE AND HIS CLASSMATES WENT TO INVESTIGATE AN ABANDONED FACTORY AND ON THEIR WAY HOME,

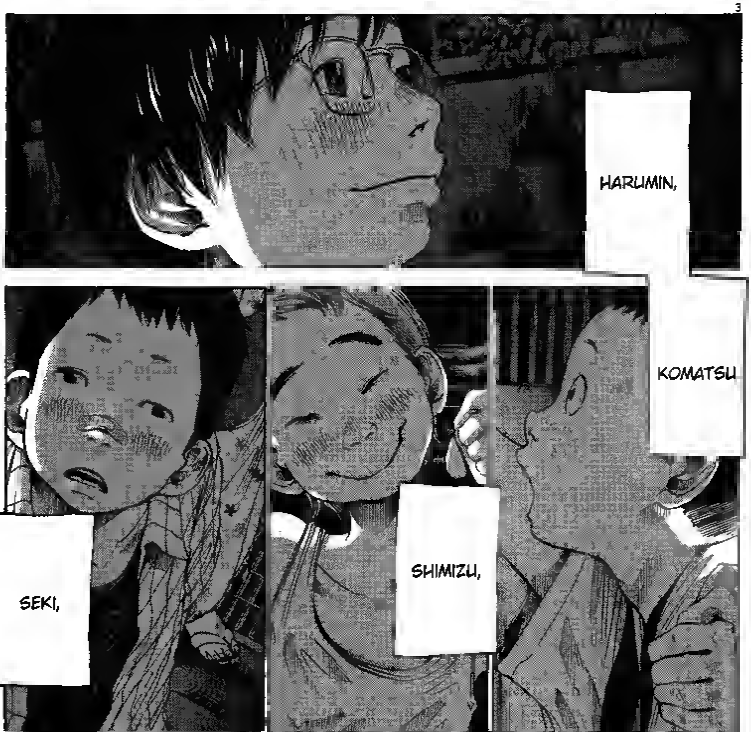
THEY GAZED AT A SKY JUST LIKE THIS ONE.

PUNPUN BLANKLY THOUGHT TO HIMSELF,

OF HOW THE STARRY SKY OF THAT NIGHT MANY YEARS AGO HAD REMAINED UNCHANGED,

AND MUST BE SHINING AS IT HAD ALWAYS BEEN.

YET HIS FRIENDS, ON THE OTHER HAND...


HARUMIN,
KOMATSU
SHIMIZU,
SEKI,

ALL OF HIS FORMER
FRIENDS WERE
NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

THE ME WHO'S POPPING RANDOM BONERS,

AND DESPERATELY TRYING TO PREVENT HER FROM NOTICING MY ERECTION... JUST WHAT THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO THINK OF MYSELF?

JUST WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO MAKE OF MYSELF?

ME WHO'S ONLY ON A DATE WITH SOME GIRL I BARELY KNOW BECAUSE OF WHAT MY PENIS WANTS...

PUNPUN THOUGHT TO HIMSELF,

JUST WHAT AM I DOING HERE RIGHT NOW?

THIS IS JUST THE NATURAL OUTCOME OF MY PASSIVE LIFESTYLE.

THE RESULT OF NEVER TAKING A STAND AND BEING DRAGGED AROUND HERE AND THERE BY LIFE.

NO, I'M SURE I DIDN'T EVEN THINK OF ANYTHING OF THE SORT BACK THEN.

...IS IT?

IS THIS REALLY THE KIND OF PERSON I WANTED TO BECOME?

THINKING THESE THINGS, PUNPUN'S CHEST TIGHTENED.

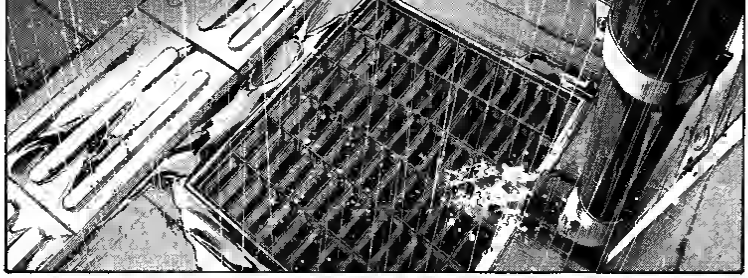
THE STARRY SKY I SAW BACK ON THAT NIGHT IS STILL SHINING BRIGHTLY AS EVER EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS,

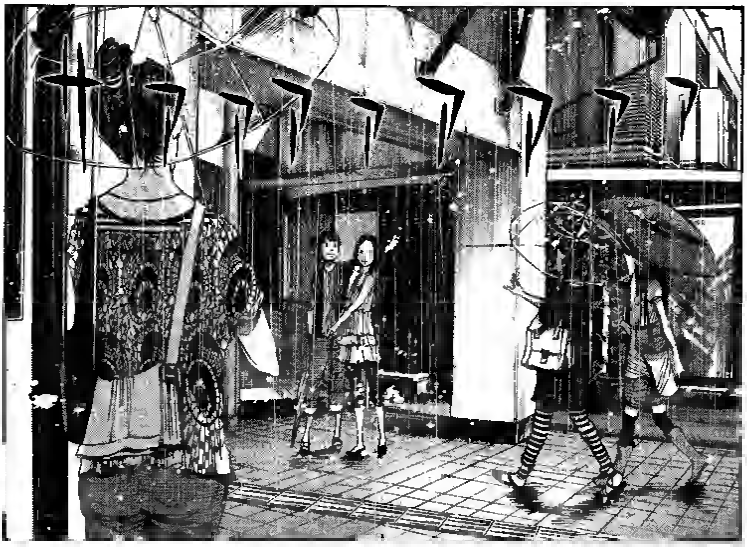
WHILE AS FOR ME, I'VE ONLY SLOWLY DEGENERATED INTO A DESPICABLE LOW-LIFE...

"LIFE IS JUST TOO UNFAIR," PUNPUN THOUGHT.

JUST WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING HERE?
SHOULD I REALLY BE HERE?
USE THAT DAMN HEAD OF YOURS!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH WITH YOUR COMPLAINING AND EXCUSES,
...YOU RETARD.

...SHUT UP.
I SAID SHUT UP...
I HAVEN'T BEEN JUST WASTING MY LIFE, I'VE BEEN TRYING HARD IN MY OWN WAY TOO...!
AND SO PUNPUN MANAGED TO HOLD BACK HIS NEGATIVE THOUGHTS JUST BARELY.





...THIS PICTURE,
IS THE ONE I DREW.
WELL...
LOOKING AT IT, I GUESS I CAN UNDERSTAND IT A LITTLE IF PEOPLE WERE TO CALL IT JUST A WASTE OF PAINT

THIS EXHIBIT HAS A SPECIFIC THEME THAT IT ASKS OF PARTICIPANTS TO DRAW ABOUT,
AND THIS TIME, THE TOPIC WAS "MEMORIES OF TEENHOOD."
I CAN'T SAY I WAS ALL THAT TAKEN WITH THE TOPIC, SINCE IT SEEMS A LITTLE UNPRODUCTIVE TO DRAW ONLY ABOUT THE PAST...

UMM...
WHAT I'M REALLY TRYING TO SAY IS THAT...

I'M HAPPY THAT YOU'RE LOOKING AT MY PAINTING SO ATTENTIVELY.
BUT TO BE HONEST...
EVEN I DON'T REALLY THINK IT'S ALL THAT TOUCHING OR EMOTIONAL OF A PICTURE...

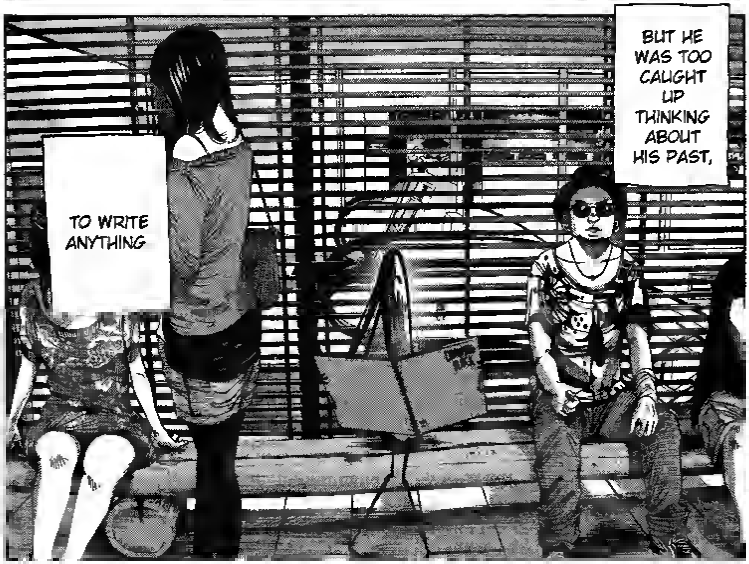
AH, THAT'S RIGHT!
HERE, IT'S A NOTEBOOK FOR PEOPLE TO WRITE WHAT THEY THOUGHT OF MY PAINTING.
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE NOBODY BOTHERED TO GIVE ME ANY COMMENTS

WOULD YOU MIND WRITING WHAT YOU THOUGHT?
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, MIYUKI AND I ARE COMPETING TO SEE WHOSE PICTURE CAN GET MORE COMMENTS.
DON'T WORRY, ANYTHING'S FINE. YOU CAN EVEN DOODLE IN IT IF YOU WANT!

OH ALSO...
AZUSA'S STILL A VIRGIN,
SO BE GENTLE WITH HER, OKAY? ♡

DO YOUR BEST, KID!

AND SO PUNPUN WAS NOW WONDERING WHAT TO WRITE ABOUT.

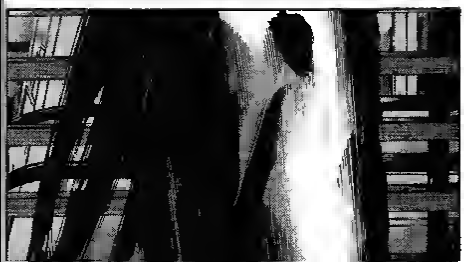


HE WASN'T SURE JUST HOW SERIOUS HIS CHILDHOOD SELF WAS ABOUT THOSE THINGS,

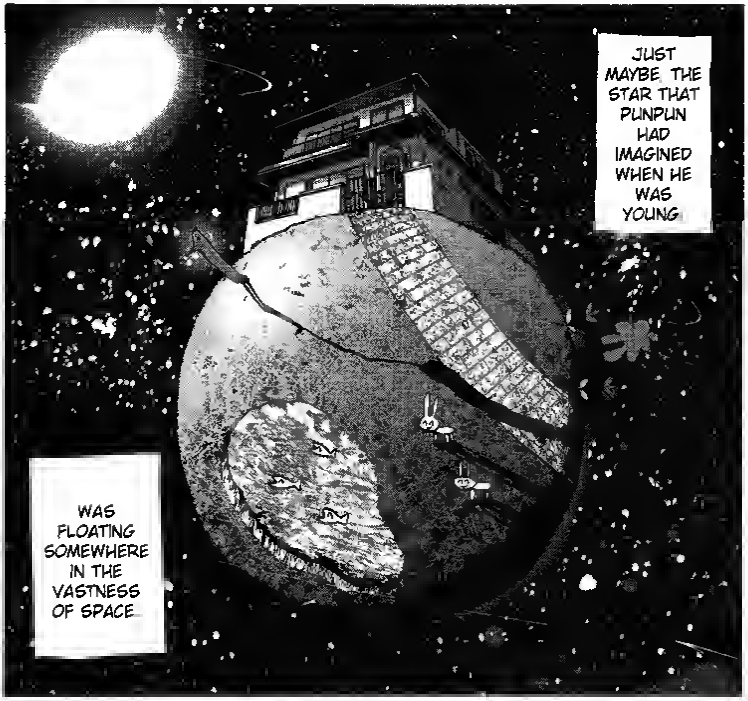
"I SURE WAS A STRANGE KID" PUNPUN THOUGHT.

HE RECALLED HOW HE WANTED TO WANTED TO STUDY SPACE, WIN A NOBEL PRIZE, AND EVEN LIVE ON A STAR HE DISCOVERED.

BUT ONE THING PUNPUN WAS SURE OF WAS THAT HE HAD GROWN INTO A VERY BORING PERSON.



BUT JUST MAYBE...
THE POSSIBILITY MAY BE ASTRONOMICALLY LOW, BUT...



THERE'S NO WAY THAT'S POSSIBLE

MAYBE THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY HEAD.

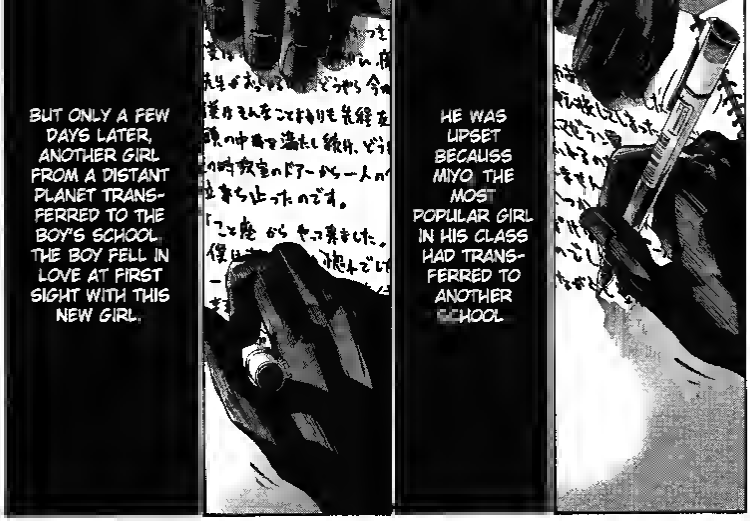
I'M IN HIGH SCHOOL AND I'M STILL THINKING SUCH RIDICULOUS THOUGHTS.

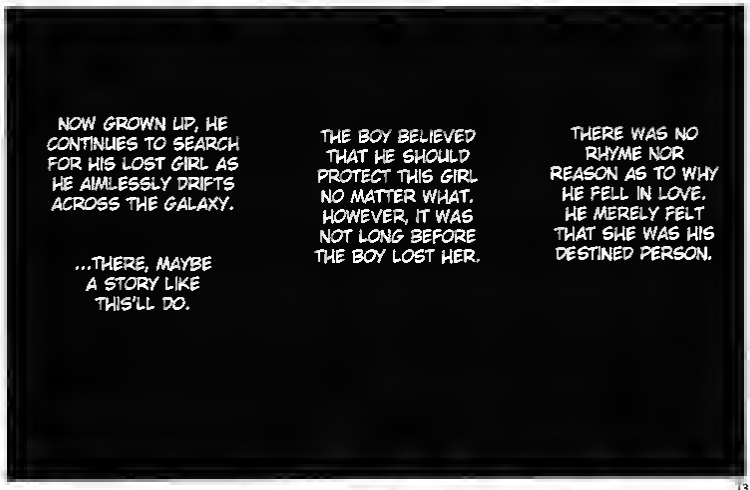
HA...!

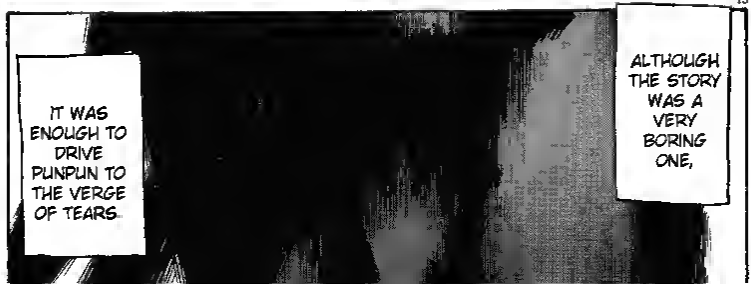
NO MATTER HOW WEIRD IT MAY SOUND.
MAYBE IT'D JUST BE EASIER TO WRITE WHAEVER COMES TO MIND,

OH, GO FUCK OFF.
受付
LOOKS LIKE MY PICTURE'S PROVING TO BE MORE POPULAR

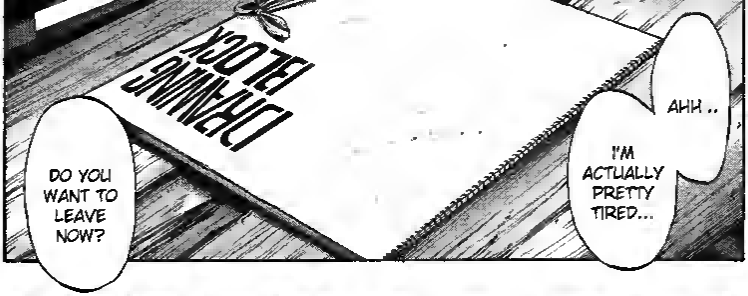
IN A PLANET FAR, FAR AWAY, THERE LIVED A NORMAL BOY. ONE DAY AT SCHOOL, HE WAS VERY UPSET.
SINCE IT'S ABOUT THE MILKY WAY, HOW ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS?


HE WAS UPSET BECAUSS MIYO THE MOST POPULAR GIRL IN HIS CLASS HAD TRANS-FERRED TO ANOTHER SCHOOL.
BUT ONLY A FEW DAYS LATER, ANOTHER GIRL FROM A DISTANT PLANET TRANS-FERRED TO THE BOY'S SCHOOL. THE BOY FELL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT WITH THIS NEW GIRL.


THERE WAS NO RHYME NOR REASON AS TO WHY HE FELL IN LOVE. HE MERELY FELT THAT SHE WAS HIS DESTINED PERSON.
THE BOY BELIEVED THAT HE SHOULD PROTECT THIS GIRL NO MATTER WHAT. HOWEVER, IT WAS NOT LONG BEFORE THE BOY LOST HER.
NOW GROWN UP, HE CONTINUES TO SEARCH FOR HIS LOST GIRL AS HE AIMLESSLY DRIFTS ACROSS THE GALAXY.
...THERE, MAYBE A STORY LIKE THIS'LL DO.


ALTHOUGH THE STORY WAS A VERY BORING ONE,
IT WAS ENOUGH TO DRIVE PUNPUN TO THE VERGE OF TEARS.

WOW...
YOU SURE ARE WRITING A LOT.
THAT'S SACHI'S NOTEBOOK ISN'T IT?
OH COME ON, YOU CAN SHOW ME
NO, NO
DRAWING BLOCK
HMM...

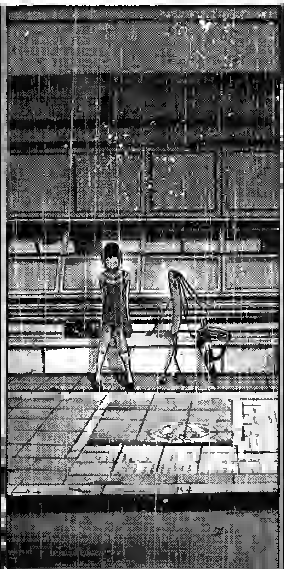

DRAWING CLOCK
AHH..
I'M ACTUALLY PRETTY TIRED...
DO YOU WANT TO LEAVE NOW?

...SIGH,
MY FEELINGS REALLY ARE TOO SIMPLE.
IT'S RAINING EVEN HARDER NOW
HMM,

THE UNSTOPPING RAIN DRAGGED PUNPUN BACK TO REALITY AT ONCE.

KANIE WAS A SERIOUS AND KIND GIRL. VERY MUCH SO.

AS PUNPUN SAT ALONE WITH KANIE, HE HAD THE STRANGEST PREMONITION THAT SOMETHING WOULD HAPPEN BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM ANY MOMENT NOW.



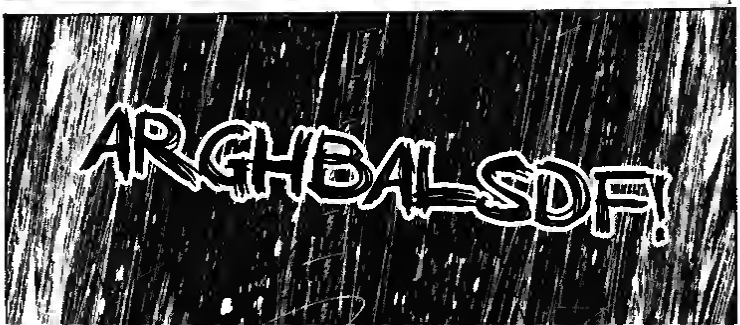
PUNPUN INSTINCTIVELY POPPED ANOTHER SUPER BONER

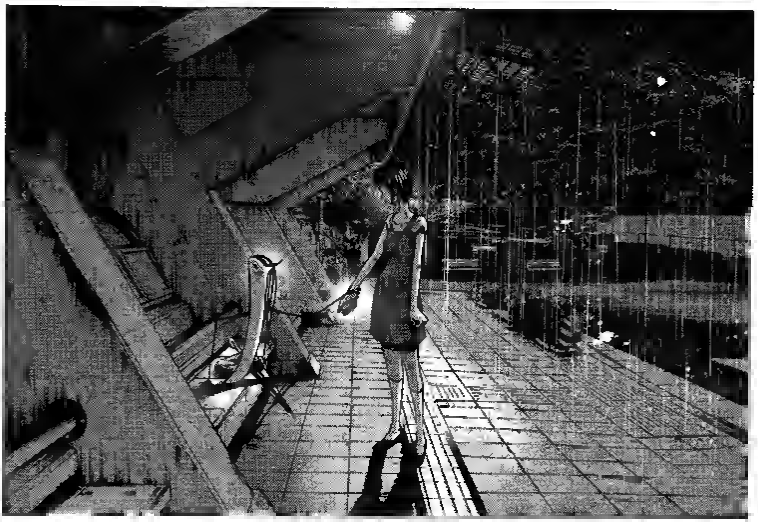
MNN!!
ALRIGHT. I THINK I'LL HEAD BACK HOME FOR TODAY!
MY MOM WILL GET WORRIED IF I STAY OUT ANY LATER.

WHAAAAT!?

WAIT! UMM...
BUT THE RAINY SEASON SHOULD BE OVER BY THE TIME OUR TERM ENDS AS WELL
WELL WE'RE BOTH GOING TO BE TOO BUSY STUDYING FOR THE NEXT LITTLE WHILE...
WHA!?
NOOO!

I HAD A LOT OF FUN TODAY
SO LET'S GO OUT AND PLAY AGAIN SOMETIME THEN OKAY?


ARGHBALSDF!

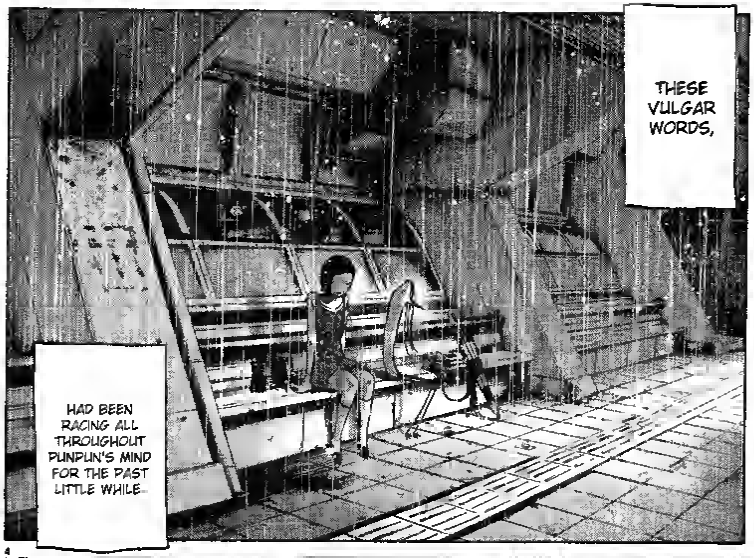


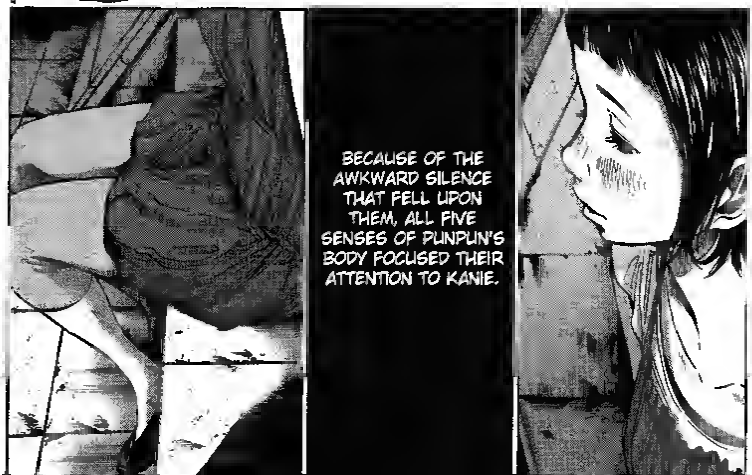
"COULD YOU STAY JUST A LITTLE LONGER...?"

IN THE NICK OF TIME PUNPUN MANAGED TO CALM HIMSELF DOWN AND ASK

3

"VAGINA, CUNT, PUSSY, TWAT."

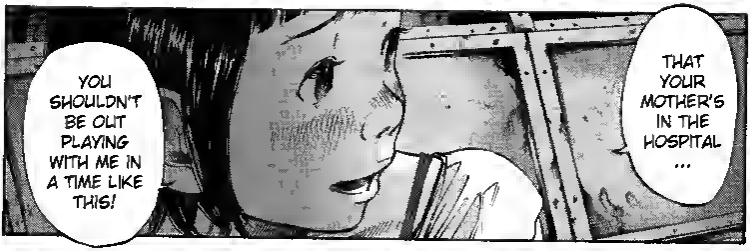


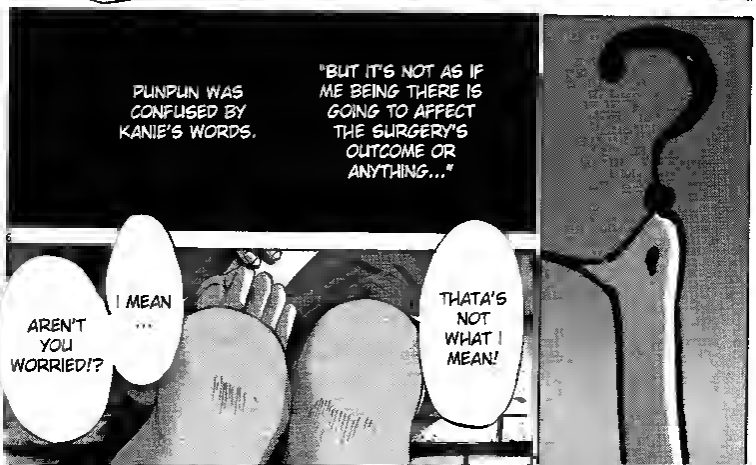


THE MORE HIS HEAD BECAME FULL OF SUCH DIRTY THOUGHTS
BUT THE MORE PUNPUN TRIED TO THINK OF SOMETHING TO SAY,

OH, I S...
AND I'M SURE EVEN YOUR MOTHER WILL GET WORRIED IF YOU STAY OUT ANY LATER, RIGHT?
MAYBE I SHOULD HEAD BACK AFTER ALL.
IT IS GETTING A LITTLE CHILLY...
WAIT, WHAT?
PUNPUN'S MIND FRANTICALLY SEARCHED FOR MORE CLEVER THINGS TO SAY TO MAKE HER STAY.
"NO, IT'S FINE. MY MOTHER'S ACTUALLY IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A SURGER TODAY, YOU SEE."

ONODERA,
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT BEFORE?

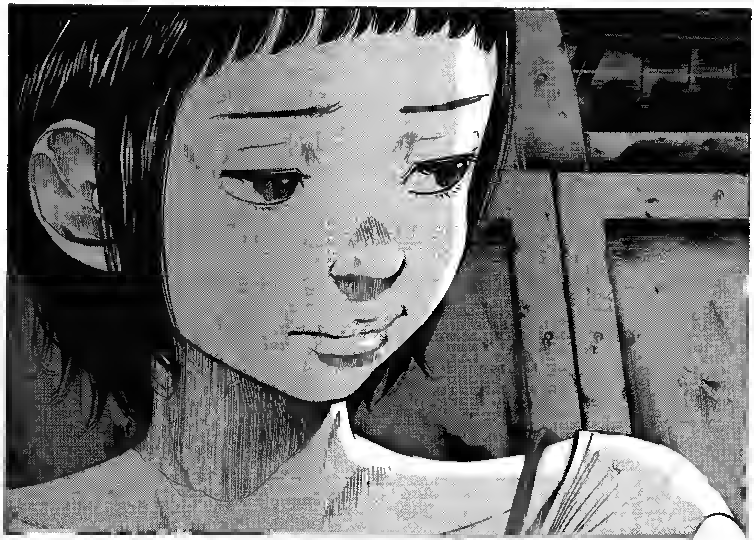

THAT YOUR MOTHER'S IN THE HOSPITAL ...
YOU SHOULDN'T BE OUT PLAYING WITH ME IN A TIME LIKE THIS!

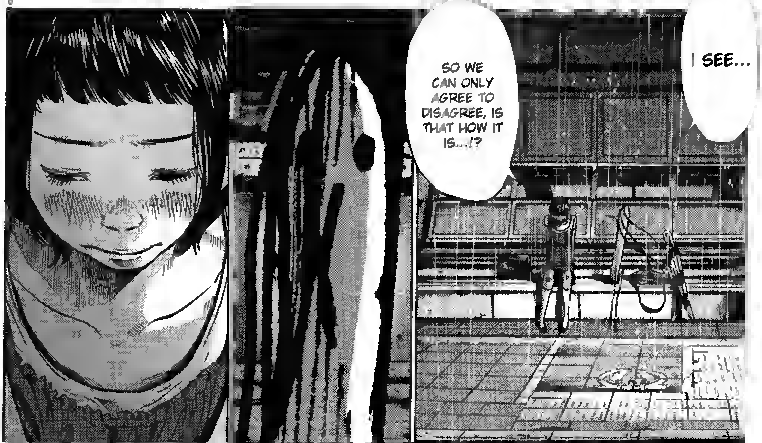

"BUT IT'S NOT AS IF ME BEING THERE IS GOING TO AFFECT THE SURGERY'S OUTCOME OR ANYTHING..."
PUNPUN WAS CONFUSED BY KANIE'S WORDS.
THATA'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
I MEAN ...
AREN'T YOU WORRIED!?

BUT SHE'S YOUR MOM...
SHE'S FAMILY!
BUT...
"I DON'T REALLY SEE WHY I SHOULD BE WORRIED."
FRANKLY, PUNPUN DIDN'T THINK THAT THERE WAS ANY REASON FOR HIM TO BE CRITICIZED THUS.
"WHETHER SHE'S FAMILY OR NOT, THAT DOESN'T REALLY CHANGE THE FACT THAT SHE'S A SEPARATE PERSON FROM ME."
PUNPUN FOOLISHLY RESPONDED BACK,

THAT'S JUST NOT RIGHT...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SMARTER THAN THAT
ONODERA ...

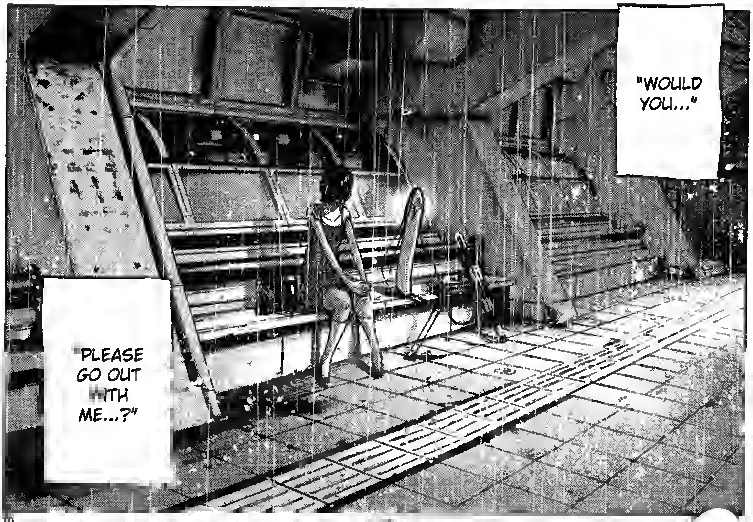
"AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE SMARTER THAN TO IMPOSE YOUR SUBJECTIVE STANDARDS ON MY CIRCUMSTANCES."





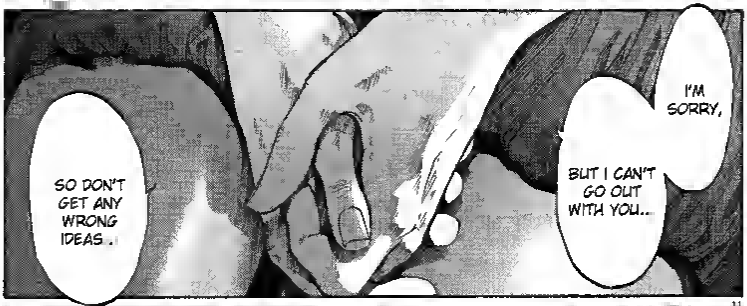
PUNPUN FELT WEAK IN THE KNEES AS HE REGRETTED HIS ACTIONS.
WELL...
JUST WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD ANYWAYS?
YOU TELL ME NOT TO GO, AND THEN YOU JUST SHUT UP AND DON'T SAY ANYTHING...
I MIGHT CATCH A COLD IF I STAY HERE ANY LONGER YOU KNOW!
WELL SORRY FOR WASTING YOUR TIME LIKE THAT!
THEN I'M SURE YOU MUST'VE THOUGHT OF MY SISTER'S PICTURE AS NOTHING BUT RUBBISH!
WELL?
JUST WHAT IS IT!?
WHAT!?
TELL ME!
IF YOU GOT SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY,
THEN SAY IT ALREADY!

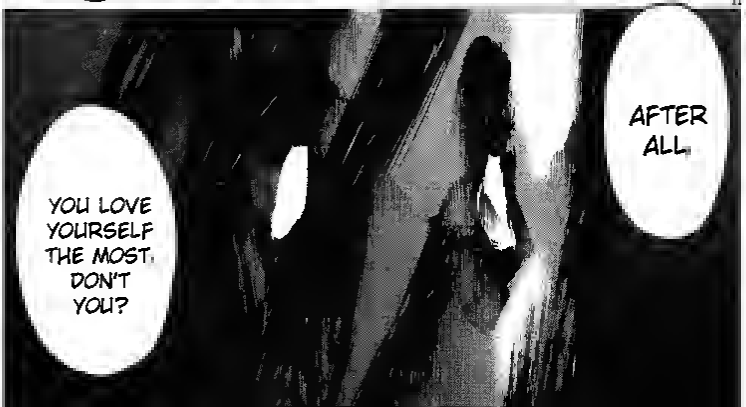
"WOULD..."


"WOULD YOU..."
"PLEASE GO OUT WITH ME...?"

YOU'RE TOO WEIRD...
AND TOO SELFISH ...
WHA ...?
HOW CAN YOU EVEN SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT NOW...?
NO, NO, NO, SOMETHING'S WRONG!
PUNPUN WAS ON THE VERGE OF WETTING HIS PANTS.

I SEE, SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST A NICE GUY AND HAVING FUN TODAY...
BUT THAT WAS ALL JUST TO GET ME TO LIKE YOU, WASN'T IT?
HOW SELFISH OF YOU...
YOU HAVE TO CONSIDER OTHER'S FEELINGS MORE...
NO, NO, NO, NO,


I'M SORRY,
BUT I CAN'T GO OUT WITH YOU..
SO DON'T GET ANY WRONG IDEAS.

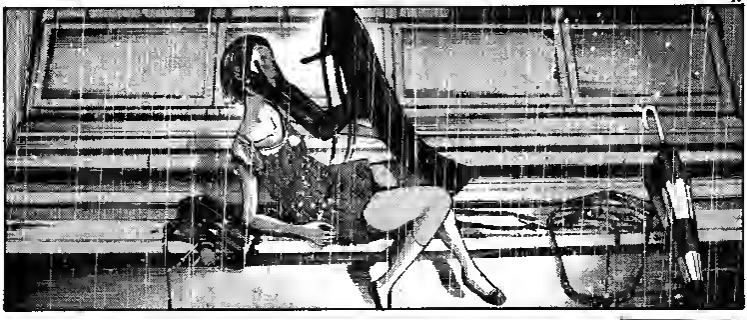

AFTER ALL,
YOU LOVE YOURSELF THE MOST, DON'T YOU?

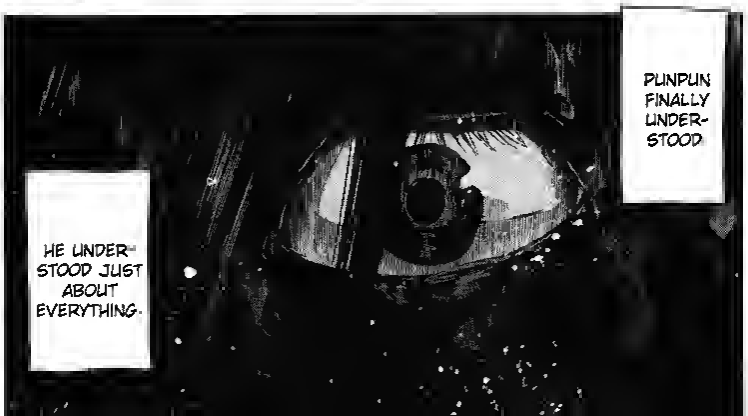
EVERYDAY, I TRY MY BEST TO STAY QUIET AND NOT GET IN ANYONE'S WAY, BOTHER THEM, NOR START UP ANY UNNECCESSARY ARGUMENTS... SO WHY!? WHY IS IT THAT I'M ALWAYS DENIED OF EVERYTHING!?

THOUGH KANIE CONTINUED TO SAY SOMETHING, PUNPUN COULD NO LONGER HEAR HER.

JUST DO HER!

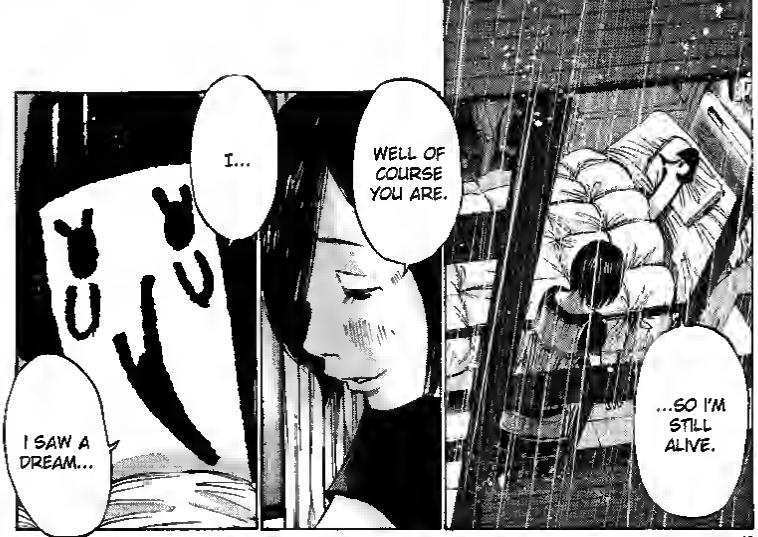
SPOUTING SUCH HUMANISTIC IDEALS AS ONLY A PRETENSE TO COVER UP JUST HOW BADLY YOU WANT IT!
AGHH... DON'T GIVE ME THAT, ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE SO WET DOWN THERE!



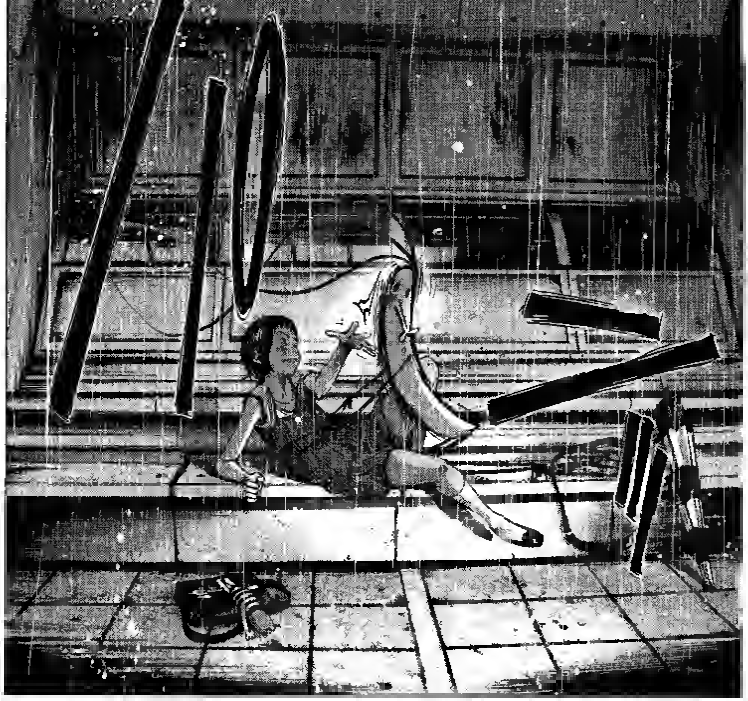

PUNPUN FINALLY UNDER-STOOD
HE UNDER-STOOD JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING.

KISS HER!!

MIDORI,
WHAT TIME IS IT RIGHT NOW...?
OH,
SO YOU'RE AWAKE?
IT'S A LITTLE PAST 9PM


I SAW A DREAM...
I...
WELL OF COURSE YOU ARE.
...SO I'M STILL ALIVE.

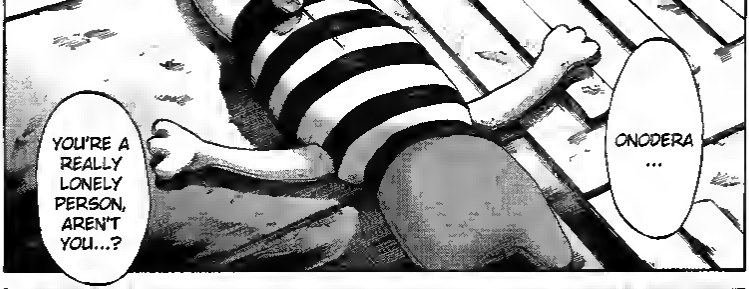
AS IF IT WERE JUST ANOTHER NIGHT FOR A PERFECTLY NORMAL FAMILY...
I WAS HAPPILY TALKING WITH PUNPUN AND EATING DINNER,

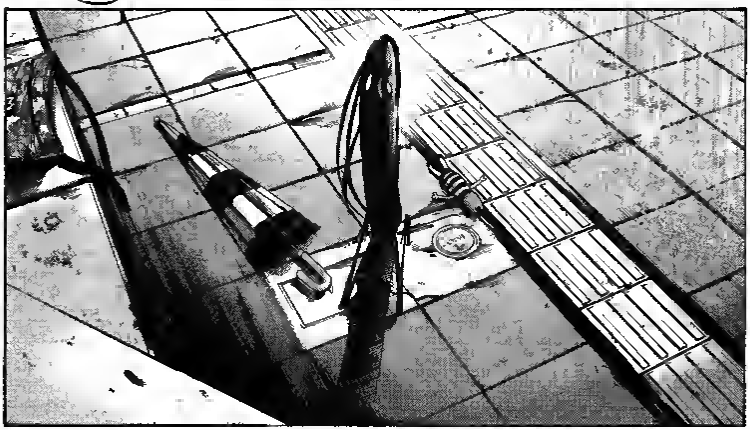


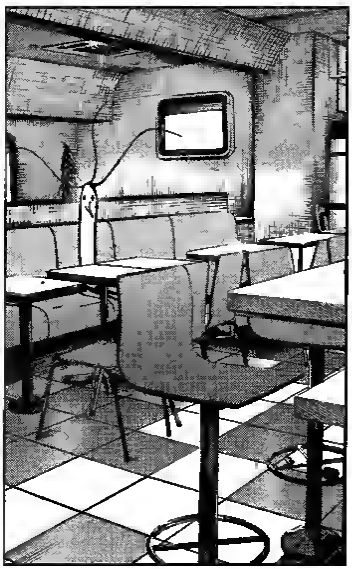
GET
OFF OF ME THIS INSTANT...

NO, IT'S FINE...
I'D RATHER WALK HOME WITHOUT AN UMBRELL...
HERE.
YOU CAN HAVE IT BACK.

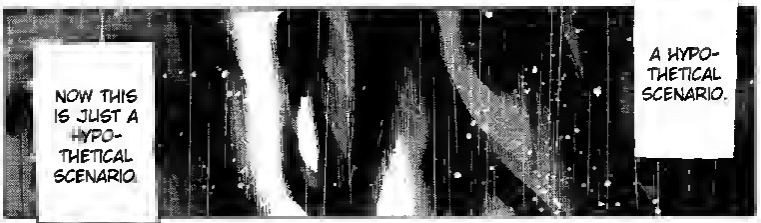
I SHOULD'VE JUST STAYED AT HOME TODAY AND STUDIED...
SIGH...

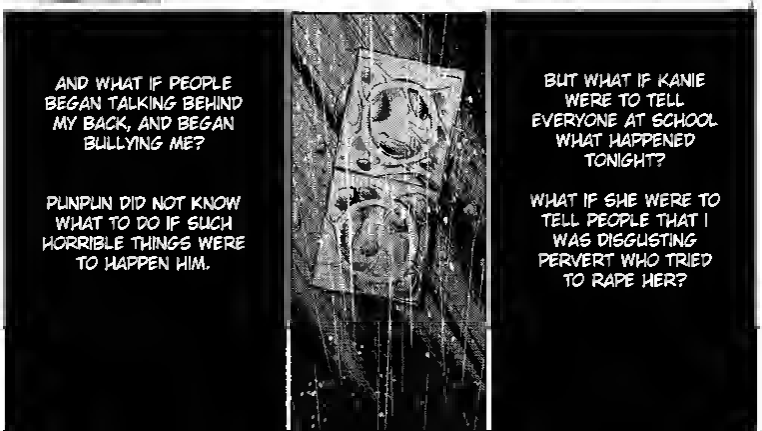

YOU'RE A REALLY LONELY PERSON, AREN'T YOU...?
ONODERA ...





CHAPTER 65.


NOW THIS IS JUST A HYPO-THETICAL SCENARIO.
A HYPO-THETICAL SCENARIO.


AND WHAT IF PEOPLE BEGAN TALKING BEHIND MY BACK, AND BEGAN BULLYING ME?
PUNPUN DID NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO IF SUCH HORRIBLE THINGS WERE TO HAPPEN HIM.
BUT WHAT IF KANIE WERE TO TELL EVERYONE AT SCHOOL WHAT HAPPENED TONIGHT?
WHAT IF SHE WERE TO TELL PEOPLE THAT I WAS DISGUSTING PERVERT WHO TRIED TO RAPE HER?

BUT SUCH SELFISH ACTIONS WOULD ONLY PROVE THAT HE ONLY CARED ABOUT HIMSELF.

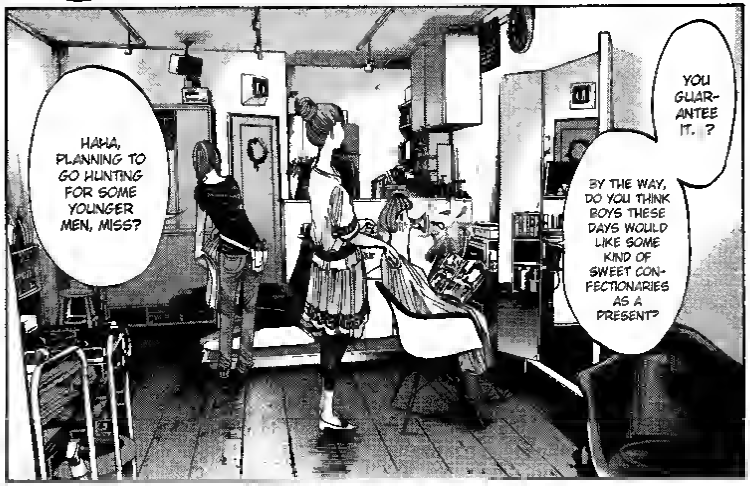
PUNPUN NOW FELT WORSE AS HE THOUGHT THAT KANIE'S WORDS MAY HAVE HAD SOME RING OF TRUTH TO IT.

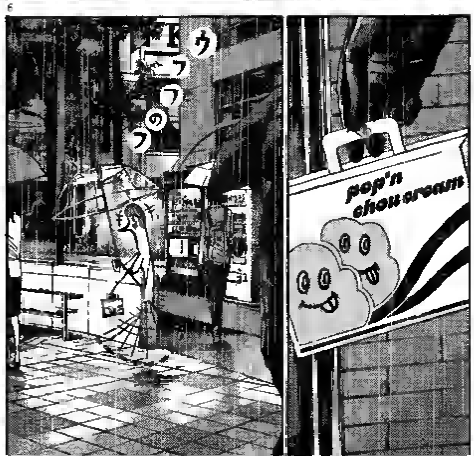
2

HE WAS SURE THAT HE'D REGRET LETTING KANIE GO HOME ALONE IN THIS RAIN FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE.

ARGHBLAAA!☆

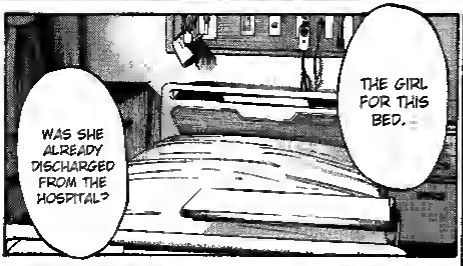
ARE YOU SURE THIS'LL BE FINE?
I MEAN, ISN'T IT A LITTLE PATHETIC FOR A WOMAN MY AGE TO BE TRYING TO LOOK YOUNG WITH A HAIR-STYLE LIKE THIS?
OF COURSE NOT!!!
I GUARANTEE THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO PULL IT OFF!
back


YOU GUAR-ANTEE IT. ?
BY THE WAY, DO YOU THINK BOYS THESE DAYS WOULD LIKE SOME KIND OF SWEET CON-FECTIONARIES AS A PRESENT?
HAHA, PLANNING TO GO HUNTING FOR SOME YOUNGER MEN, MISS?


pop'n choucream

N-NO, OF COURSE NOT! I WAS ONLY JUST WONDER-ING!

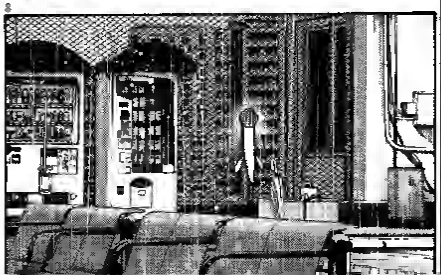
MS. ONODERA!
AS A PATIENT, YOU HAVE TO GET PERMISSION IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO OUTSIDE FOR AWHILE!
OH, DON'T BE SO STRICT!
I'M SURE YOU OF ALL PEOPLE CAN UNDER-STAND HOW STUFFY IT CAN GET IN HERE!
BESIDES, TODAY'S MY LAST DAY HERE SINCE I'LL BE ABLE TO GO BACK HOME TONIGHT!

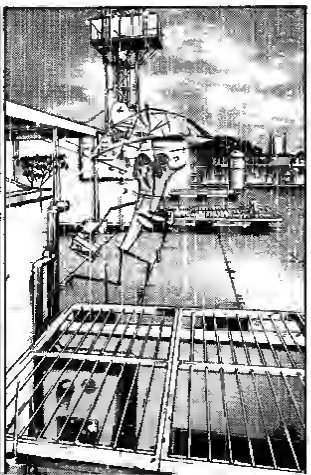

THE GIRL FOR THIS BED...
WAS SHE ALREADY DISCHARGED FROM THE HOSPITAL?

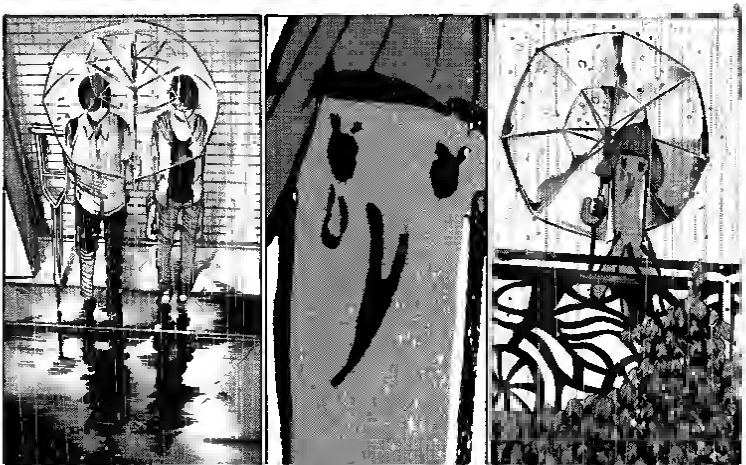
7
HMM?
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?

OH HER?
NO, I THINK SHE'S TALKING WITH SOME BOY HER AGE WHO CAME TO SEE HER JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO

...HARUMI!?







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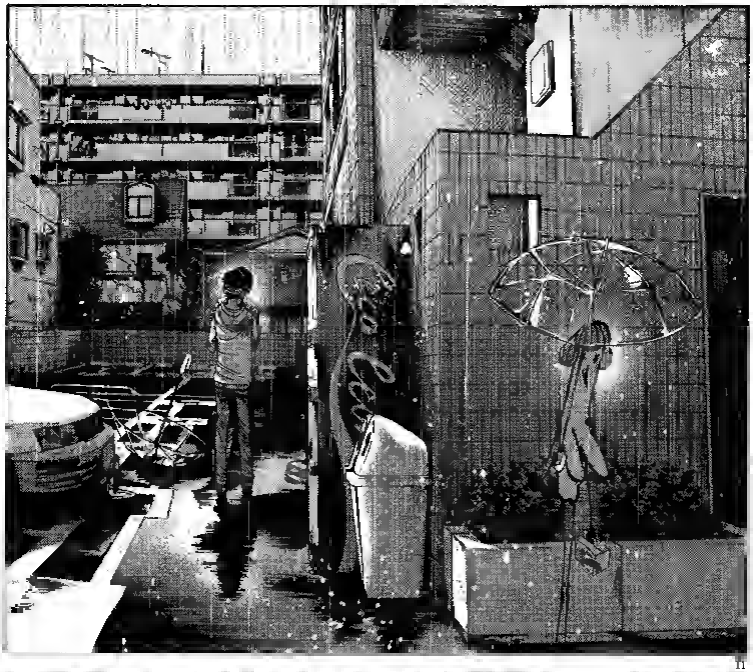
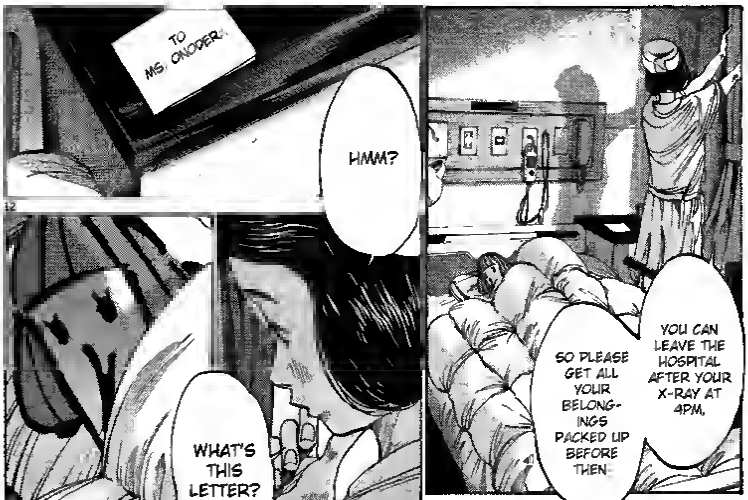
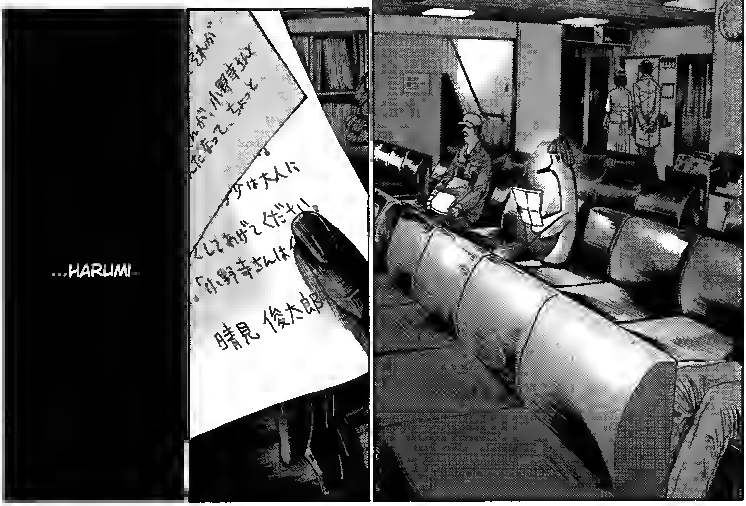
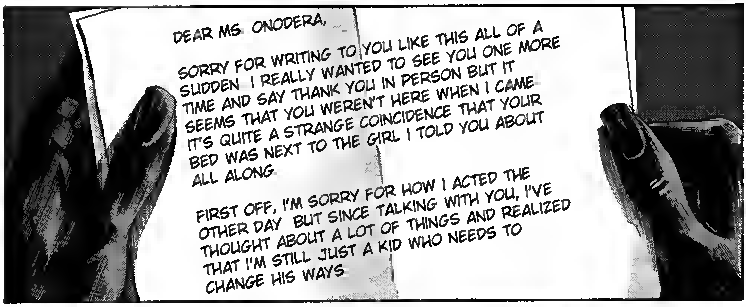


WHAT? MS ONODERA? NEVER WOULD HAVE EXPECTED THAT
MS. ONODERA GAVE US THESE CREAM PUFFS FOR THE NURSES TO EAT
UMM

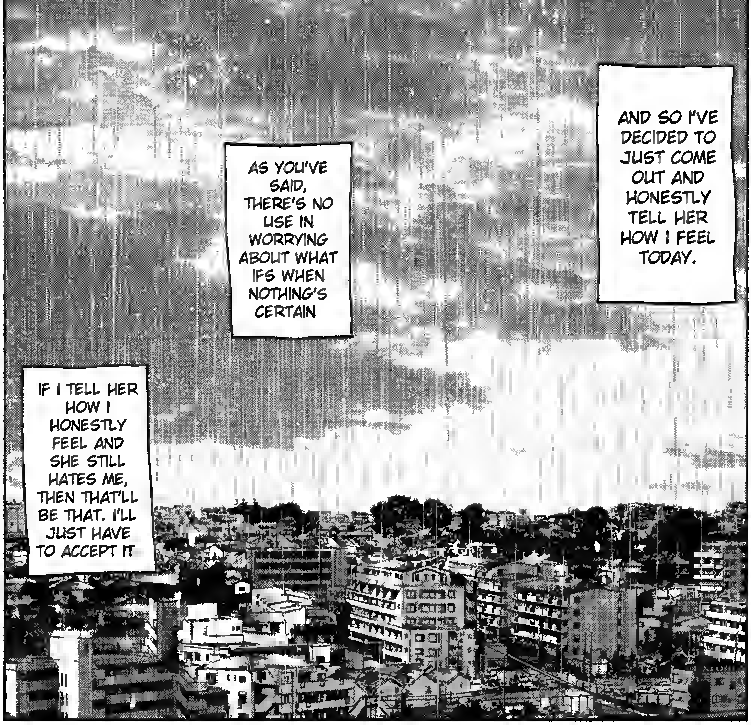
HEAD NURSE!
YOU HAVE A CALL WAITING FOR YOU ON LINE 2.
YOU THINK THAT SHE PUT SOMETHING IN THOSE CREAM PUFFS?
A GIFT FROM HER? THIS IS TOO FISHY.

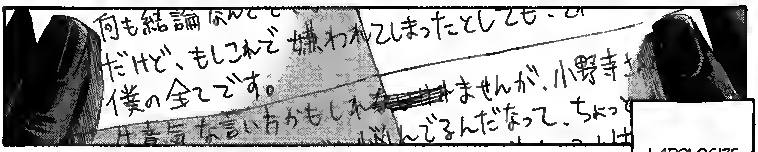

TO MS. ONODERA
HMM?
WHAT'S THIS LETTER?
SO PLEASE GET ALL YOUR BELONGINGS PACKED UP BEFORE THEN.
YOU CAN LEAVE THE HOSPITAL AFTER YOUR X-RAY AT 4PM.

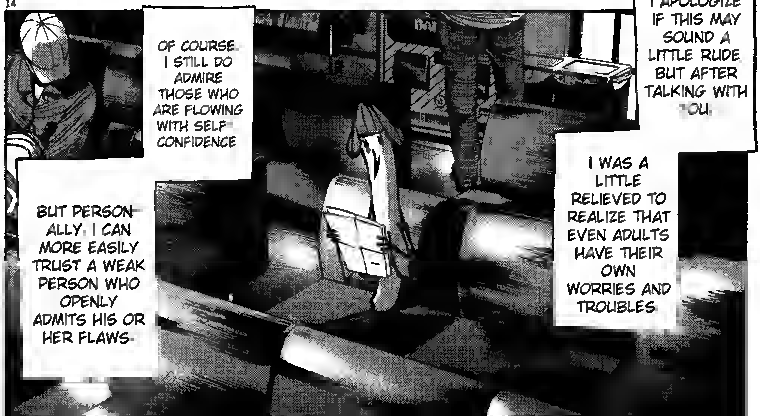

...HARUMI

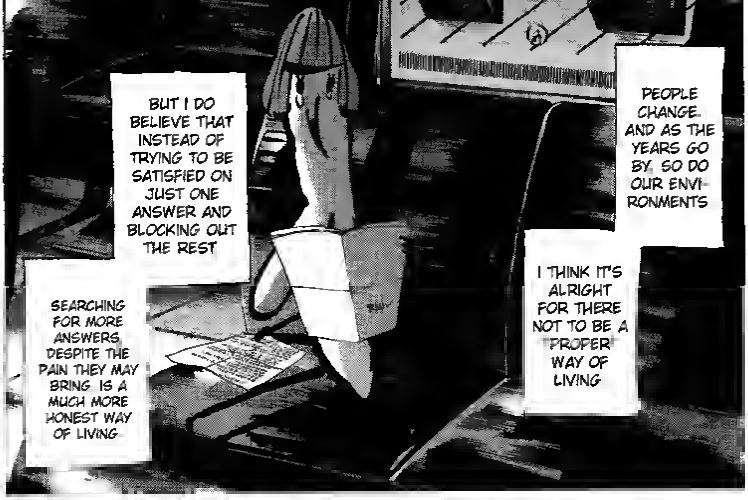

DEAR MS. ONODERA,
SORRY FOR WRITING TO YOU LIKE THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN. I REALLY WANTED TO SEE YOU ONE MORE TIME AND SAY THANK YOU IN PERSON BUT IT SEEMS THAT YOU WEREN'T HERE WHEN I CAME. IT'S QUITE A STRANGE COINCIDENCE THAT YOUR BED WAS NEXT TO THE GIRL I TOLD YOU ABOUT ALL ALONG.
FIRST OFF, I'M SORRY FOR HOW I ACTED THE OTHER DAY. BUT SINCE TALKING WITH YOU, I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS AND REALIZED THAT I'M STILL JUST A KID WHO NEEDS TO CHANGE HIS WAYS.

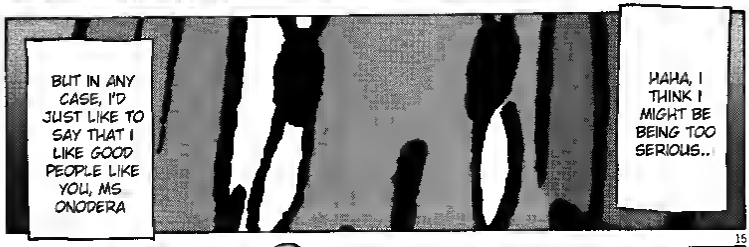
FIRST OFF, I'M SORRY FOR HOW I ACTED THE OTHER DAY.
BUT SINCE TALKING WITH YOU, I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT A LOT OF THINGS AND REALIZED THAT I'M STILL JUST A KID WHO NEEDS TO CHANGE HIS WAYS.


AND SO I'VE DECIDED TO JUST COME OUT AND HONESTLY TELL HER HOW I FEEL TODAY.
AS YOU'VE SAID, THERE'S NO USE IN WORRYING ABOUT WHAT IFS WHEN NOTHING'S CERTAIN
IF I TELL HER HOW I HONESTLY FEEL AND SHE STILL HATES ME, THEN THAT'LL BE THAT. I'LL JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT IT

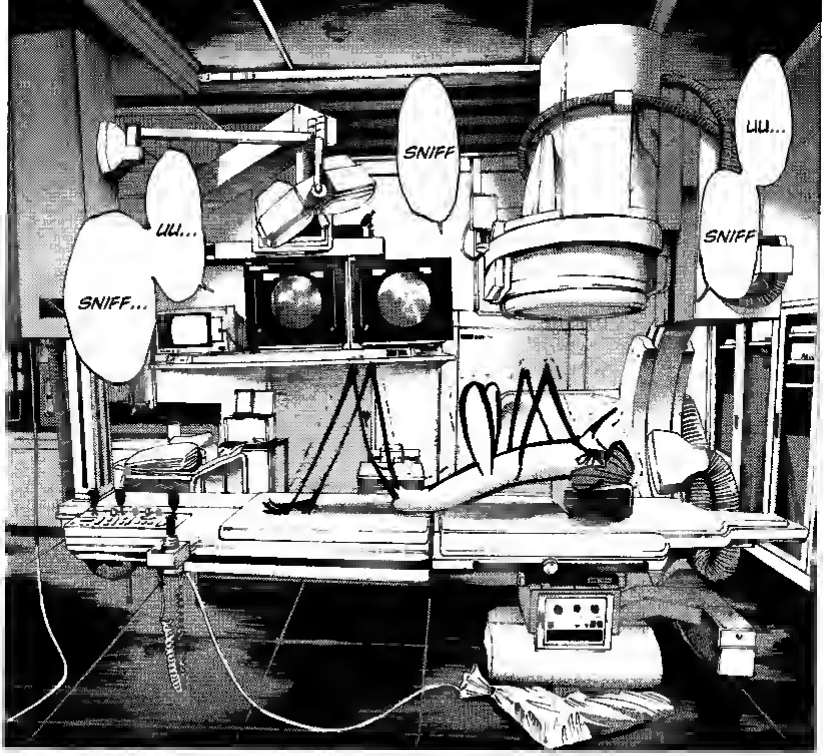

何も結論なんて
だけど、もしこれで嫌われてしまったとしても、
僕の全てです。
ません

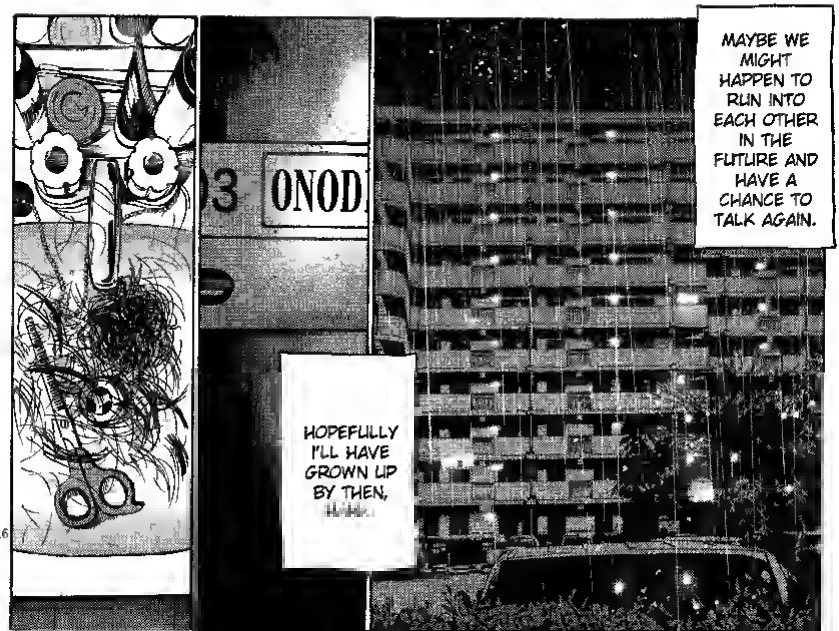

I APOLOGIZE IF THIS MAY SOUND A LITTLE RUDE BUT AFTER TALKING WITH YOU
I WAS A LITTLE RELIEVED TO REALIZE THAT EVEN ADULTS HAVE THEIR OWN WORRIES AND TROUBLES
OF COURSE I STILL DO ADMIRE THOSE WHO ARE FLOWING WITH SELF-CONFIDENCE
BUT PERSONALLY, I CAN MORE EASILY TRUST A WEAK PERSON WHO OPENLY ADMITS HIS OR HER FLAWS


BUT I DO BELIEVE THAT INSTEAD OF TRYING TO BE SATISFIED ON JUST ONE ANSWER AND BLOCKING OUT THE REST
PEOPLE CHANGE AND AS THE YEARS GO BY, SO DO OUR ENVIRONMENTS
I THINK IT'S ALRIGHT FOR THERE NOT TO BE A PROPER WAY OF LIVING
SEARCHING FOR MORE ANSWERS DESPITE THE PAIN THEY MAY BRING IS A MUCH MORE HONEST WAY OF LIVING


BUT IN ANY CASE, I'D JUST LIKE TO SAY THAT I LIKE GOOD PEOPLE LIKE YOU, MS ONODERA
HAHA, I THINK I MIGHT BE BEING TOO SERIOUS..

HMM?
MS. ONODERA?
IF YOU COULD PLEASE HOLD YOUR BREATH FOR A MOMENT...
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND ANYTHING!
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND...
SHUT UP, SHUT UP, SHUT UP!
IN THE END, I'M STILL ALL ALONE...
ALRIGHT, PLEASE HOLD YOUR BREATH FOR A MOMENT
X-RAY ROOM


SNIFF
UU...
SNIFF
UU...
SNIFF...


MAYBE WE MIGHT HAPPEN TO RUN INTO EACH OTHER IN THE FUTURE AND HAVE A CHANCE TO TALK AGAIN.
HOPEFULLY I'LL HAVE GROWN UP BY THEN,
03 ONOD

WELL, I'M BACK FROM THE HOSPITAL.
HOW'VE YOU BEEN?

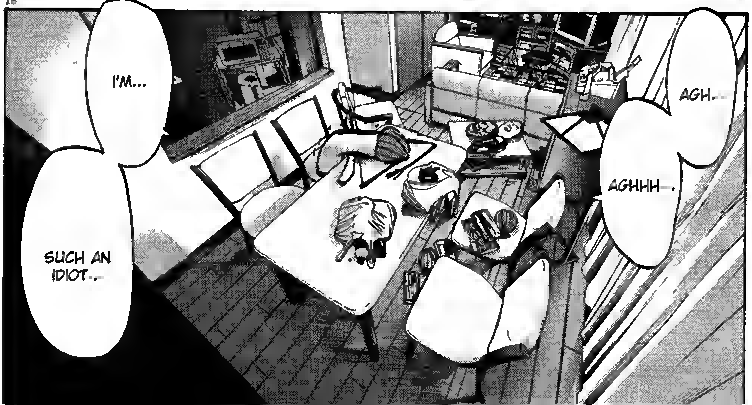
OH, SO YOU CUT YOUR HAIR?
WHAT A COINCI-DENCE? I HAD ONE TOO!

SO PUNPUN, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT?
A TEENAGER LIKE YOU NEEDS TO EAT A LOT!

IT'S BEEN AWHILE SINCE I LAST WENT GROCERY SHOPPING SO I BOUGHT A LOT OF FOOD!
IT'S NICE TO COOK YOUR OWN DINNER AND ENJOY IT TOGETHER AS A FAMILY ONCE IN AWHILE, YOU KNOW?

SAY SOME-THING, WILL YOU!?
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST SAY, "WELCOME BACK, MOM"!!?

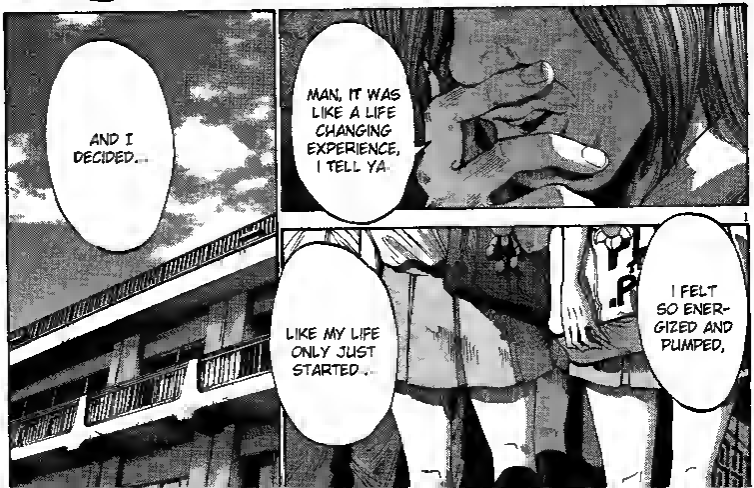
MY GIRLFRIEND ALSO TOLD ME THAT YOU'RE A VERY KIND-HEARTED PERSON
P.S I HOPE YOU CAN GET ALONG WITH YOUR SON BETTER FROM NOW ON.


I'M...
SUCH AN IDIOT...
AGH...
AGHHH...

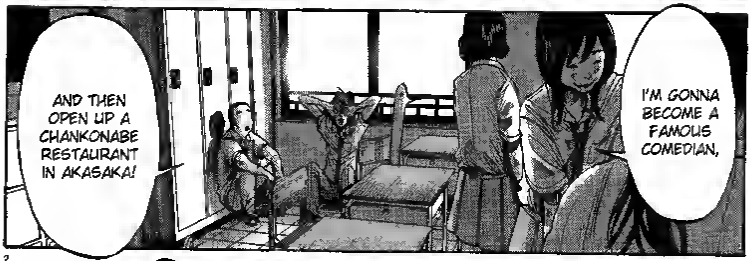
CHAPTER 66

YOU DON'T HAVE TO REALLY BELIEVE ME,
BUT LAST NIGHT WHILE I WAS IN MY ROOM,
I WAS SUDDENLY SURROUNDED BY THIS BRIGHT WHITE LIGHT...
AND I SWEAR I MET GOD OR AT LEAST THAT'S WHO I THOUGHT HE WAS!!!

AND HE SAID TO ME...
"ARE YOU FINE WITH THE WAY YOU ARE RIGHT NOW...?"


MAN, IT WAS LIKE A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE, I TELL YA.
AND I DECIDED...
I FELT SO ENERGIZED AND PUMPED,
LIKE MY LIFE ONLY JUST STARTED..

I'M GONNA TAKE THIS WORLD BY THE STORM!
PIGYA AAAA!


I'M GONNA BECOME A FAMOUS COMEDIAN,
AND THEN OPEN UP A CHANKONABE RESTAURANT IN AKASAKA!

MIMURA...
HOW'D YOU DO IN THE END OF TERM FINAL EXAMS?
..15TH PLACE FROM LAST
OH...
WELL, BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME..

SIGH..
IT'S ALREADY SUMMER..
...HEY,
LET'S GO AND PLAY WITH SOME HOT CHICKS AT THE BEACH THIS SUMMER.
OUR YOUTH WILL BE GONE BEFORE WE KNOW IT IF WE JUST CONTINUE TO GRUMBLE AND WASTE OUR TIME...
AH, MIMURA!
YOU JUST PEAKED UNER MY SKIRT, DIDN'T YOU!?
WHA !?
NO I DIDN'T!
I HEARD THAT YOU WENT AROUND FLIPPING GIRLS SKIRTS BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!
AND THAT'S WHY YOU CAME TO THIS SCHOOL EVEN THOUGH IT'S SO FAR AWAY FROM YOUR HOME!
W-WHAT ....?
LADIES, LADIES...

AND HE TRIED SO HAAARD TO ACT COOL ON HIS FIRST DAY OF HIGH SCHOOL
WHA...
YOU'RE SUCH A DESPERATE LOSER.
W-WELL, I SAW YOU GIRLS WALKING AROUND WITH BUSINESS MEN DRESSED UP IN EXPENSIVE SUITS!
Y-YOU SLUTTY BITCHES!
OH LOOK HOW HE'S MAKING STUFF UP TOO!
WHAT A LOSER.
LLLOSER
DAMN...
AS IF YOU BITCHES COULD POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND A MAN LIKE ME!!!
TAKE THIS!
JUST WHAT'S SO BAD ABOUT TRYING!? HUH!?
THE SIGN OF A REAL MAN!!!

BUT IF IT ENTAILED LYING TO YOURSELF, ACTING COOL, SAYING THINGS THAT NEEDN'T BE SAID WHILE NOT SAYING WHAT YOU WANT TO SAY, AND SO ON, PUNPUN THOUGHT IT WAS ALTOGETHER QUITE BOTHERSOME.

Year 1 Class B Onodera Punpun

	Score	SD	Rank
Total	426	46	242/252
Japanese	66	52	170/252
Classics	49	46	228/252
Math	58	47	203/252
English	81	48	248/252
History	19	43	247/252
	55	48	196/252
	72	56	113/252
	46	46	230/252
	30	45	236/252

PUNPUN WASN'T REALLY SURE OF WHAT THIS IDEAL "YOUTH" THAT MIMURA SPOKE OF,

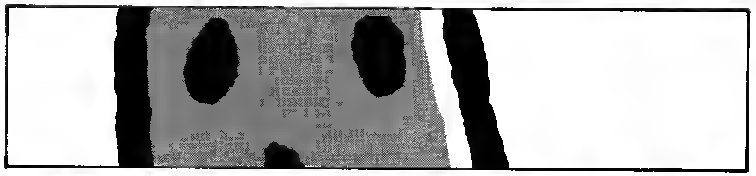
YO ONOTTI, ARE YOU SERIOUS ABOUT NOT JACKING OFF THESE DAYS?

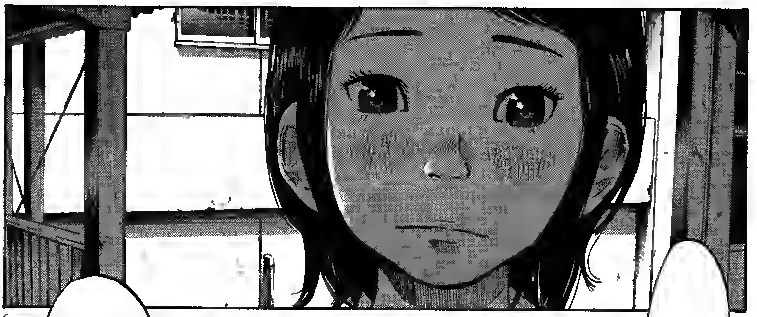
YOU TRYING TO BECOME A MONK OR SOMETHING?

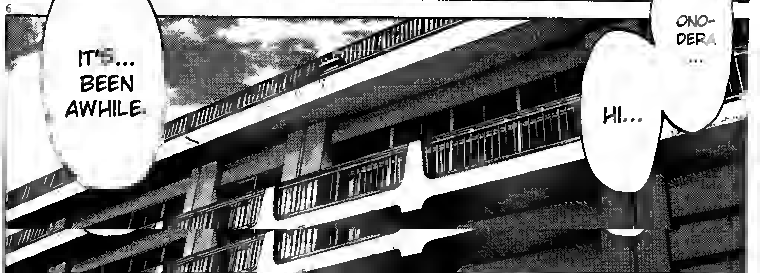
CONFUSED FROM SUCH THOUGHTS, PUNPUN WAS UNSURE OF JUST HOW EXACTLY TO LIVE HIS LIFE AND WAS LEFT WITH EVEN LESS SELF-CONFIDENCE THAN BEFORE.

BUT MAYBE ONCE I'M AN ADULT, I MIGHT LOOK BACK ON IT FONDLY AND NOT THINK BADLY OF THOSE THINGS IN ANY WAY. THAT IT WAS ALRIGHT FOR TEENAGERS TO HAVE ACTED THE WAY THEY DID.

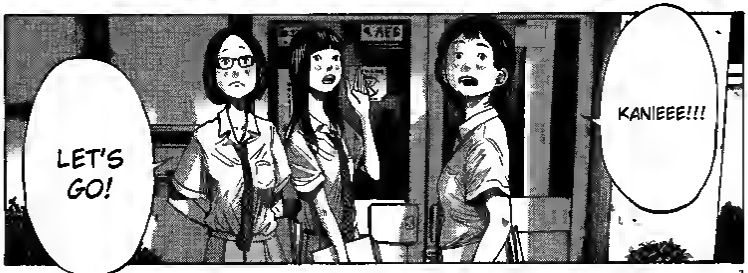
AH...





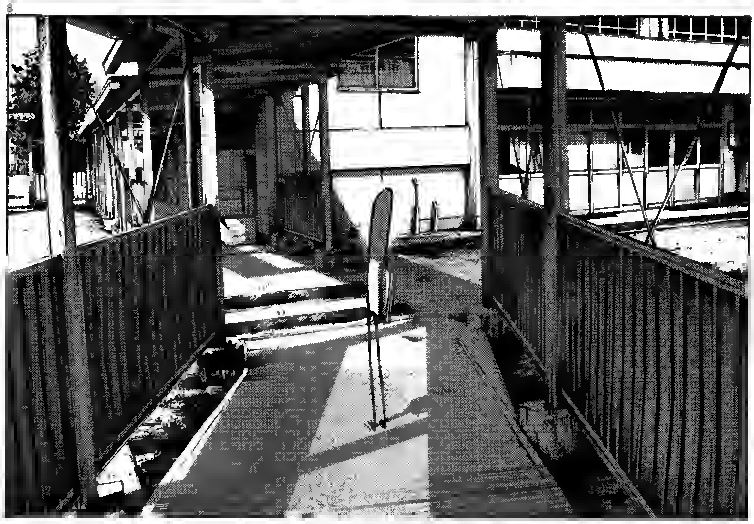

ONO-DERA...
HI...
IT'S... BEEN AWHILE.

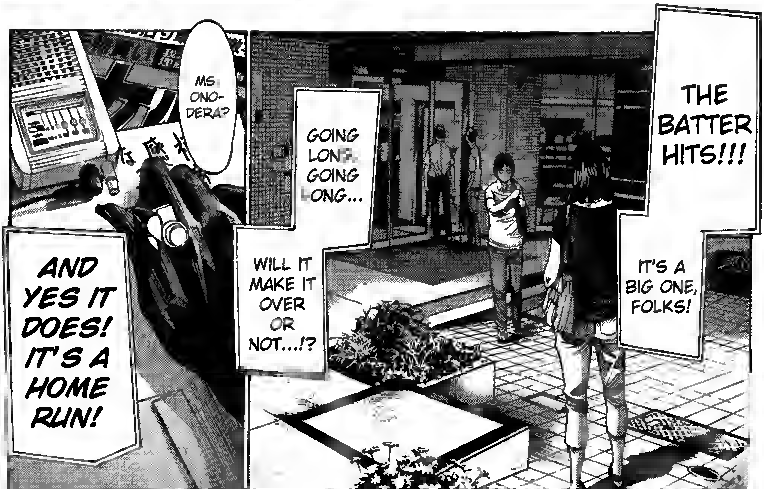
HMM? NO, I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO MY HAIR IT'S JUST GROWN LONGER, THAT'S ALL
...YOUR NEW SHORT HAIR LOOKS GOOD ON YOU.
...GOOD WEATHER TODAY, ISN'T IT?
AND IT WAS RAINING JUST UNTIL YESTERDAY TOO...
I HEARD THAT THE RAINY SEASON WILL BE OFFICIALLY OVER AS OF THIS WEEK...


KANIEEE!!!
LET'S GO!

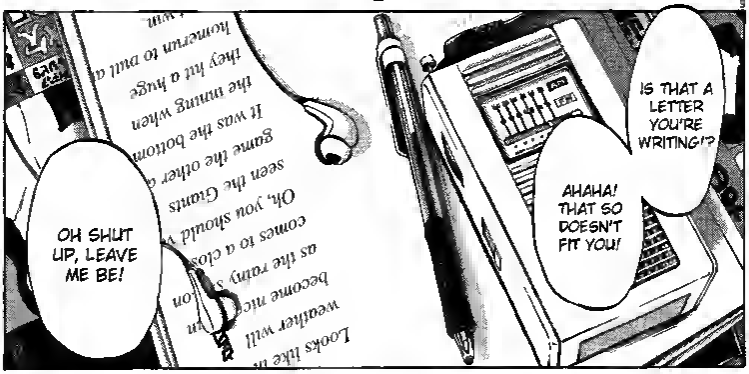
SORRY,
BUT I HAVE TO GET GOING...
BYE.

OR TO BE MORE ACCURATE, PUNPUN DIDN'T EVEN HAVE AN OUNCE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE STILL LEFT WITHIN HIM.





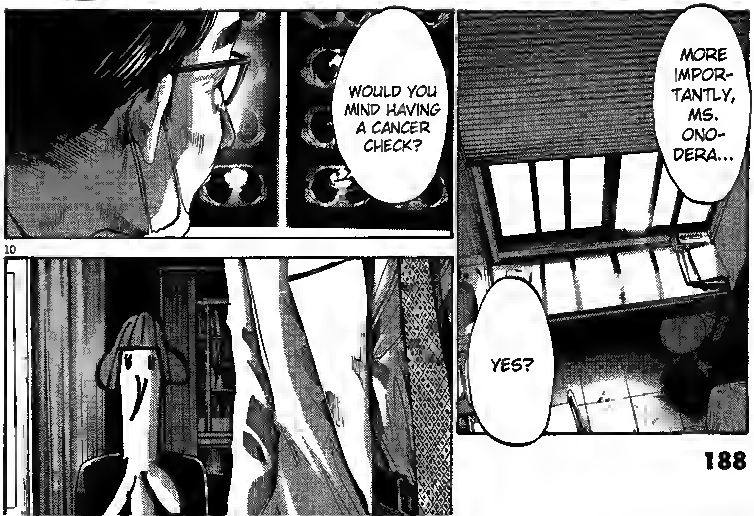
MS. ONODERA!
AGHH!
DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT, YOU ALMOST MADE ME PEE MY PANTS!
AND THE GIANTS PULL AN UPSET WIN!
WELL YOU WEREN'T RESPONDING AT ALL ..


IS THAT A LETTER YOU'RE WRITING!?
AHAHA! THAT SO DOESN'T FIT YOU!
OH SHUT UP, LEAVE ME BE!

WELL, MS. ONO-DERA,
YOU SEEM TO HAVE RECOVERED QUITE WELL AFTER YOUR OPERATION
WITH YOUR STITCHES REMOVED, YOUR TREAT-MENT IS NOW FULLY COMPLETE.

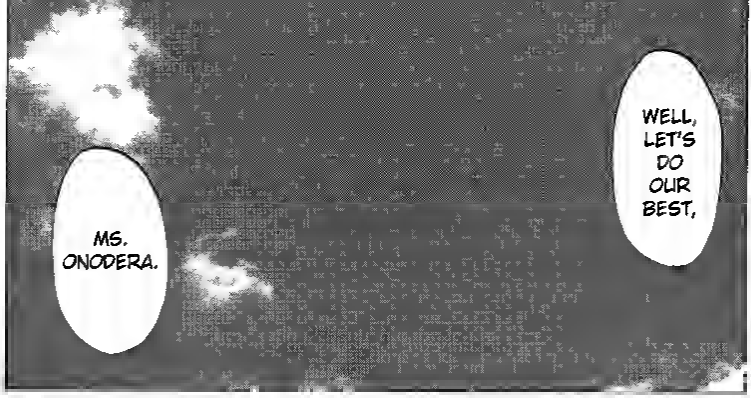
DOCTOR!
MY ABDOMINAL REGION SOMETIMES FEELS REALLY SENSITIVE!
OH AND ALSO, MY HEART BEATS RAPIDLY WHEN I LOOK AT YOU!
THAT'S JUST YOUR NERVES FEELING THE AFTER-EFFECTS OF THE SURGERY.
DON'T WORRY, THAT'LL HEAL OVER WITHIN TIME.

OH WHAAT?
GUESS I WORRIED OVER NOTHING!
HAHA!


WOULD YOU MIND HAVING A CANCER CHECK?
MORE IMPORTANTLY, MS. ONODERA...
YES?

LOOKING AT THESE X-RAY IMAGES...
...DO I HAVE CANCER?
WELL,
IT'S REALLY TOO HARD TO TELL AT THIS POINT WITHOUT DOING A PROPER CHECK...
BUT EVEN IF YOU DID HAVE CANCER, YOU'RE STILL QUITE YOUNG SO LUCKILY THE TUMOUR SHOULD BE EASILY TREATABLE

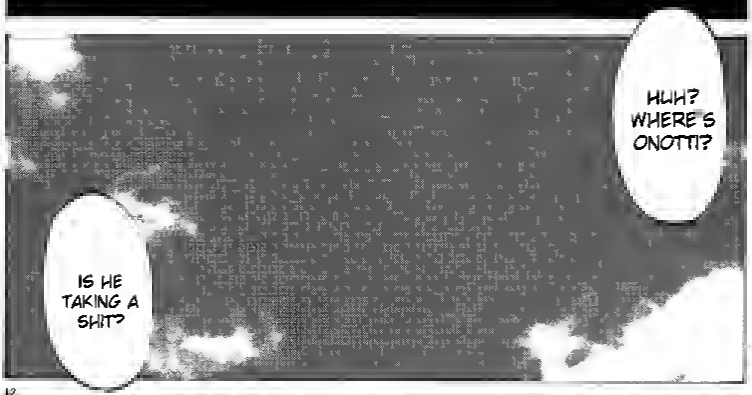
OH DOCTOR,
YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH.
I'M REALLY NOT *THAT* YOUNG...



HE WAS MERELY LEFT ALONE TO SPEND HIS DAYS VERY PLAINLY.

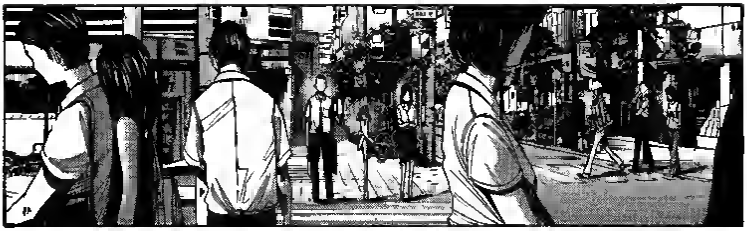
PUNPUN'S HIGHSCHOOL LIFE WAS NOT MARKED BY ANY BULLYING OR RIDICULE,

DESPITE WHAT PUNPUN HAD FEARED,



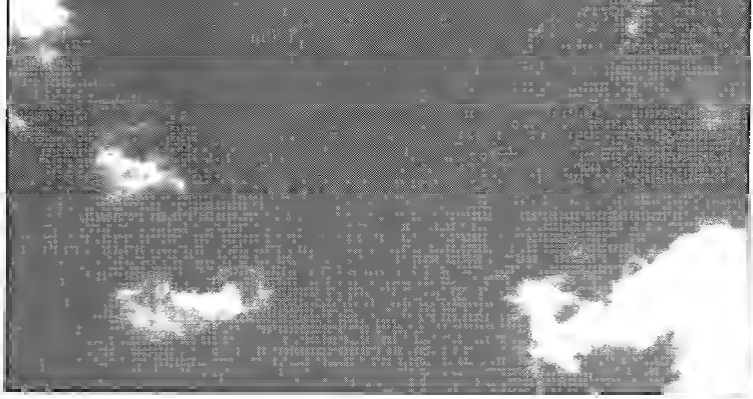
HE ASSUMED IT WAS ALL THANKS TO KANIE WHO KEPT SECRET ABOUT PUNPUN'S LEWD ACTIONS ON THAT NIGHT.

PUNPUN THOUGHT THAT SHE JUST MIGHT BE AN ANGEL REBORN ON THIS WORLD.



FROM: PUNYAMA PUNPUN
TO: ONODERA PUNPUN

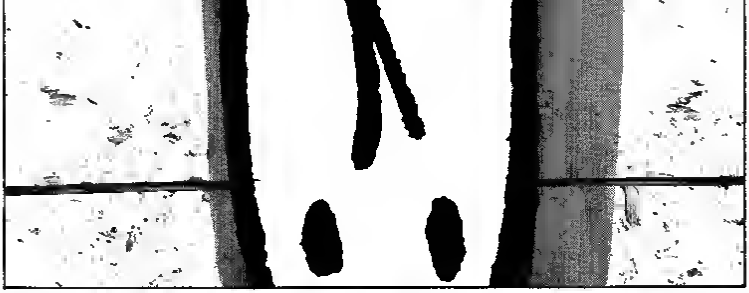
補校
小・中・高・
就職会・人材
ホテル
レンタルソープ
老舗シルバー
人材センター



AND MAYBE THEY'RE ALL GIVING IT THEIR ALL AND LIVING AS HONESTLY AS THEY CAN.

PERHAPS THERE WERE MUCH MUCH MORE PEOPLE WHO WERE KIND AND UPRIGHT PEOPLE THAN PUNPUN HAD THOUGHT THERE TO BE.

LOOKING AT THE CLEAR BLUE SKY DUMBFOUNDEDLY, PUNPUN SUDDENLY FELT LIKE APOLOGIZING TO THE WHOLE WORLD FOR SOME REASON.



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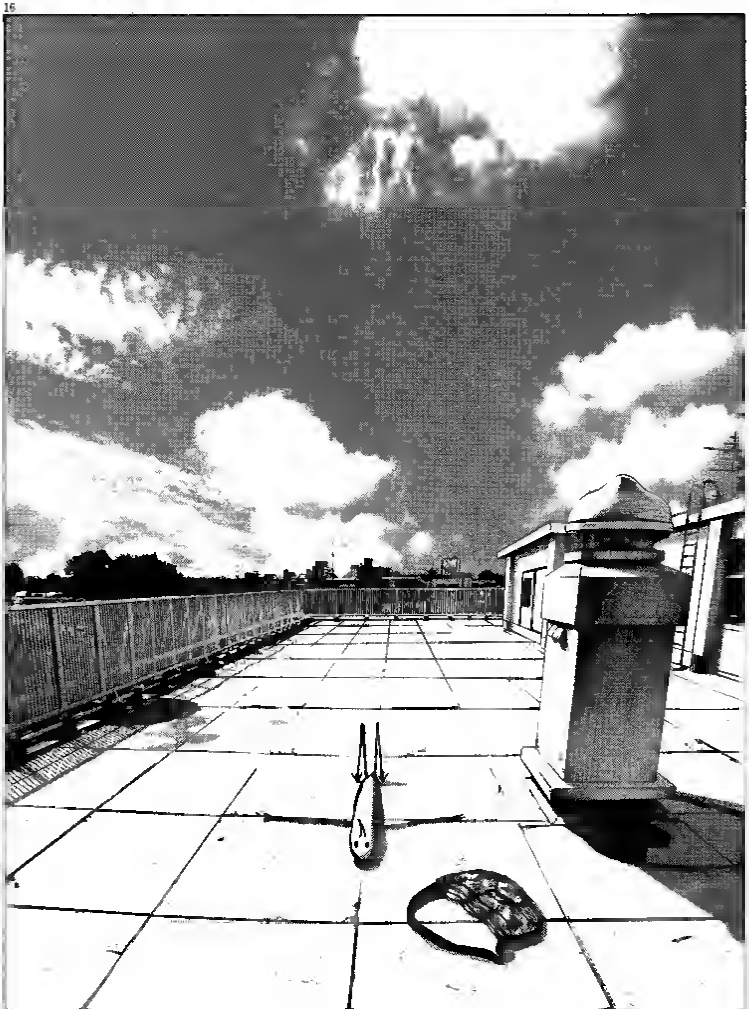
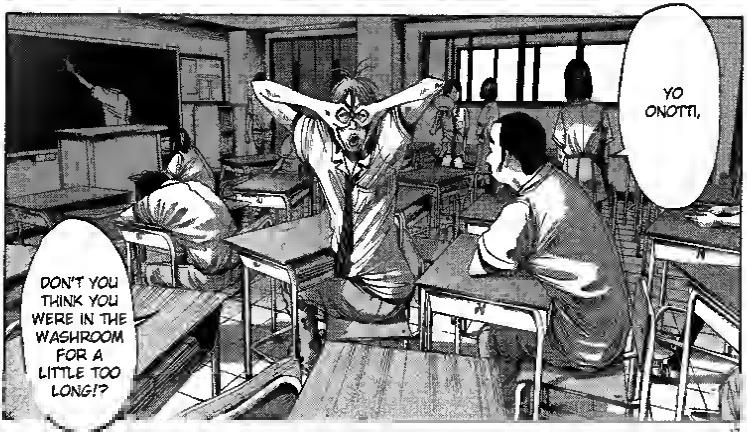


PUNPUN FINALLY UNDER-STOOD.

HE KNEW THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS GOD.

THE ONLY THING HERE RIGHT NOW WAS JUST ONE ROTTEN PART OF HIS SOUL.

AIMLESSLY TOSSING ABOUT.

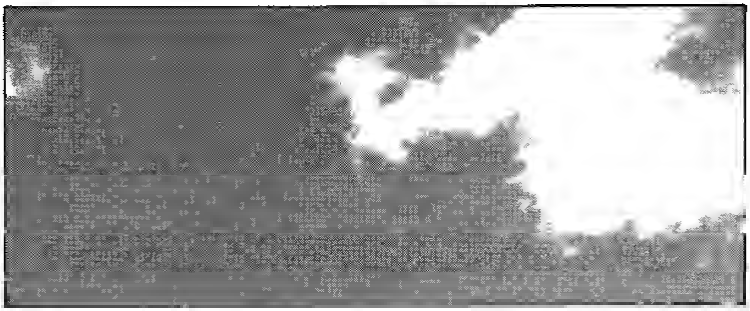


GOOD THINGS, BAD THINGS,

ALL THINGS IN THIS WORLD ARE THE PRODUCTS OF HUMAN EMOTIONS.

AND SO AS OF NOW, THERE WAS REALLY ONLY ONE THING THAT PUNPUN COULD DO AT BEST.

AND THAT WAS TO TRY TO NEVER FALL IN LOVE AGAIN.

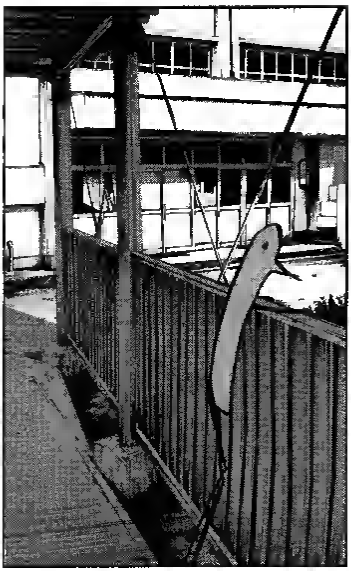


WITH THE WARM BREEZE BLOWING, PUNPUN FELT THAT HE WAS ON THE VERGE OF TEARS,

AND SO HE GENTLY SHUT HIS EYES.

...THAT WAS ENOUGH FOR TODAY.

GOODNIGHT, PUNPUN.



CHAPTER 67

1

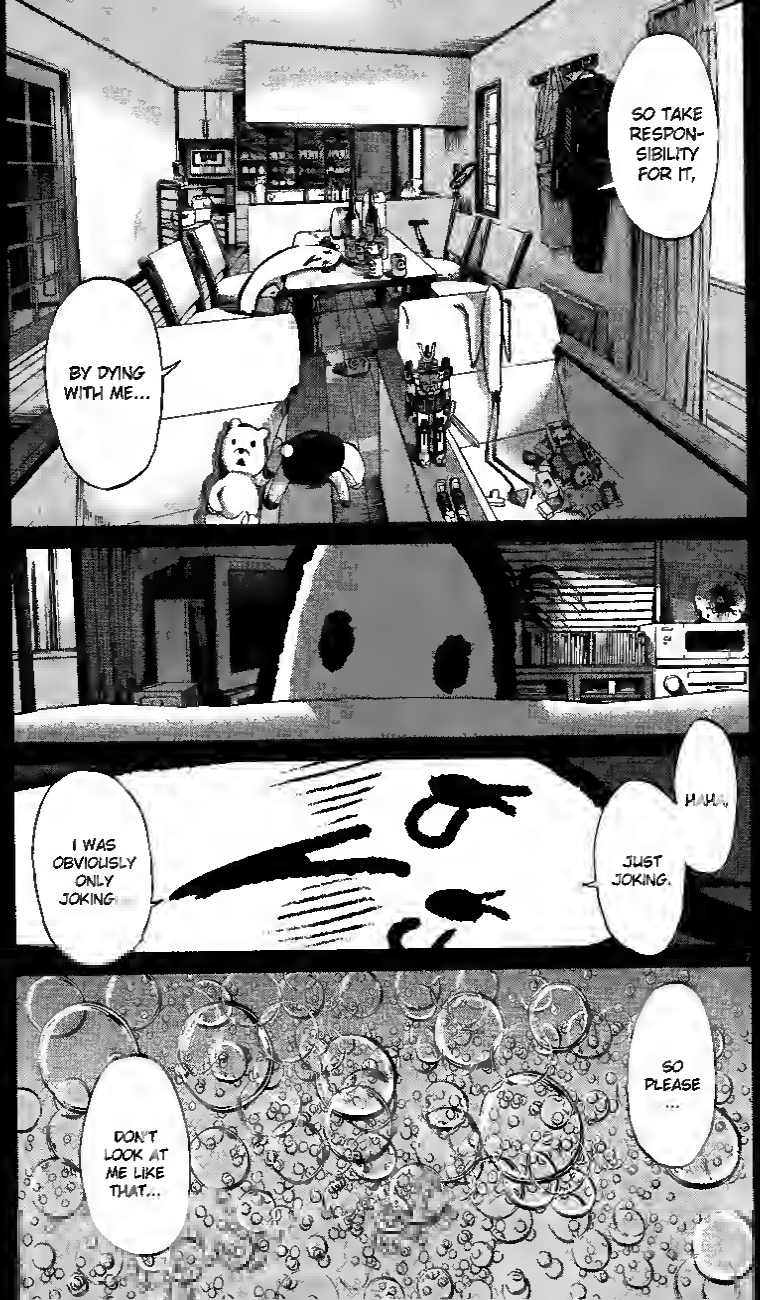
TO BE HONEST,
I JUST CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY THOSE OLD FOLKS WHO'VE FINISHED RAISING THEIR CHILDREN CONTINUE TO EVEN LIVE
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM WHEN THEY RETIRE AND YET THEY ACT SO DAMN HIGH-HANDED AND TREAT US LIKE SHIT!
IF THEY'RE ONLY GOING TO WASTE THE REST OF THEIR LIVES PLAYING PACHINKO AND WATCHING TV, I'D WISH THEY'D DO US A FAVOUR AND JUST DIE ALREADY
DUDE, SHUT UP. YOU'LL GET FIRED IF SOMEONE WERE TO OVERHEAR YOU...
...YOU'LL BE FINE.
YOU'RE A STRONG WOMAN AFTER ALL...
MS. ONODERA, ACCORDING TO THE TEST RESULTS...
YOU'RE HIS OLDER SISTER.
YOU HAVE TO LEARN TO BE MORE INDEPEND-ENT!

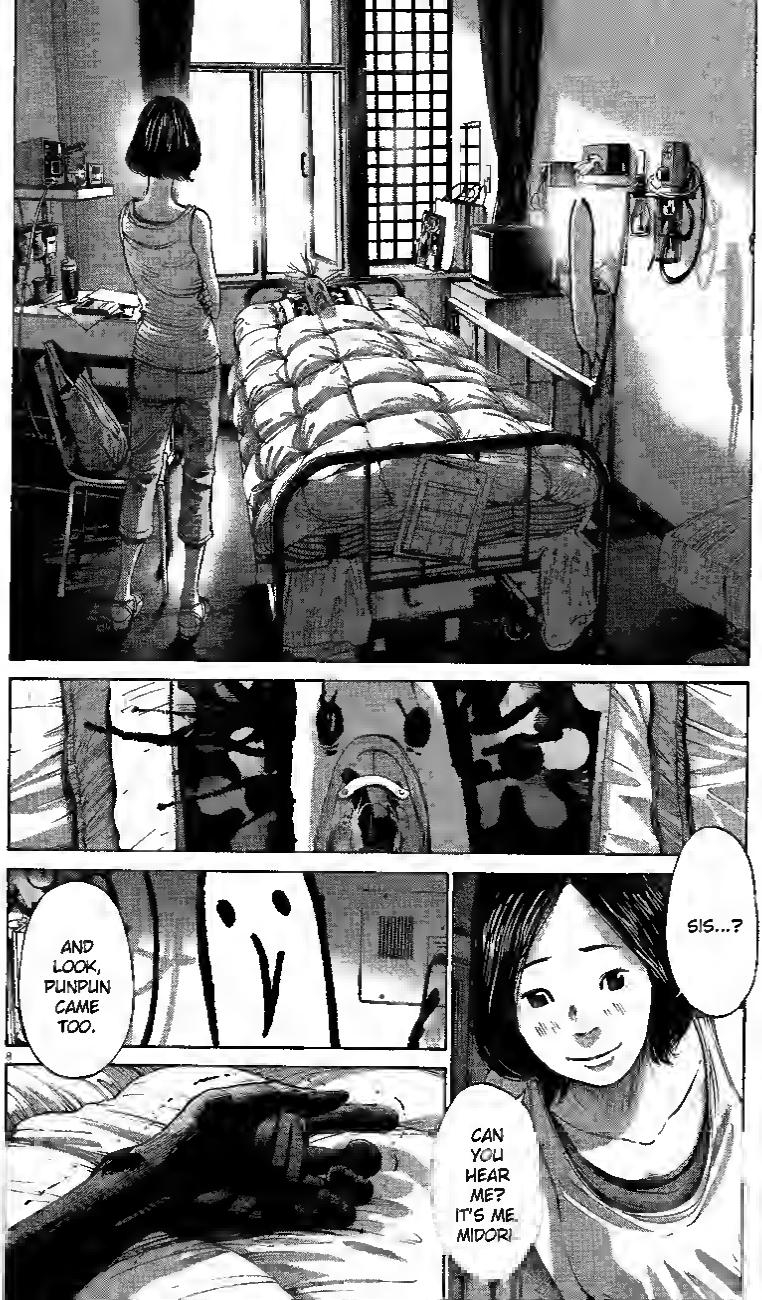
BIG BOOBS! BIG BOOBS!
BIG BOOBS! BIG BOOBS!
YUUICHI...
EVEN IF I WEREN'T ALIVE, YOU COULD LIVE ALONE JUST FINE
PROMISE ME NOT TO TELL MOM AND DAD ABOUT THIS!!!
THIS IS NOTHING I CAN'T HANDLE BY MYSELF!
IN THE END, THE ONLY ONE I CAN RELY ON IS MYSELF.
THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST IS MYSELF!

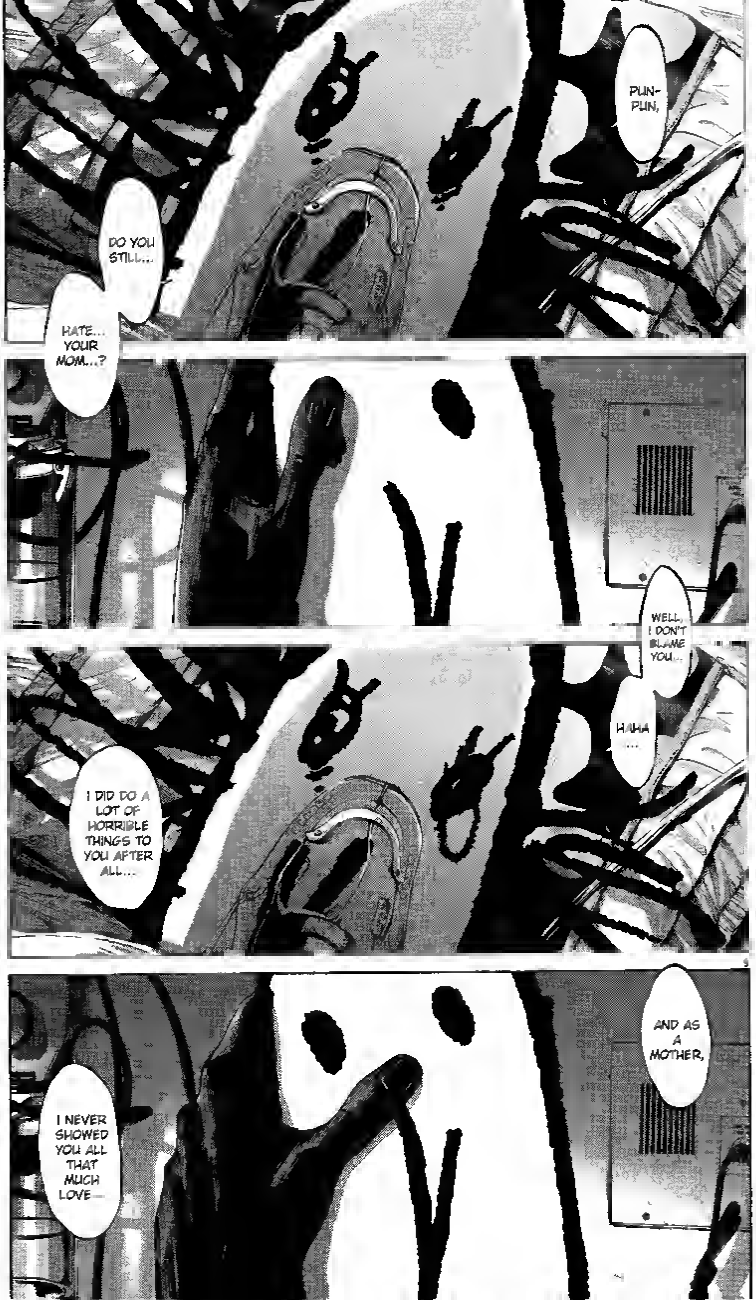
I KNOW IT MAY NOT MEAN MUCH COMING FROM MY OWN SELF.
BUT I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE ELSE WITH AS MUCH AS SELF-COFIDENCE AS ME!
I SPEAK WHATEVER'S ON MY MIND AND IF THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT, I JUST GO OUT AND GET IT!
YEAH I BET ONODERA'S GOING TO GROW UP TO DO SOME AMAZING THINGS...
HA, THINK SO TOO!
YOU'RE NOT A WOMAN WHO'D BE SATISFIED WITH SO LITTLE!
BUT YOU KNOW, AS SELF-CONFIDENT AS YOU ARE I ALSO GET THE FEELING THAT YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE ANYTHING UNLESS YOU HAVE A CLEAR OBJECTIVE
TRUE, TRUE.

YOU HAVE CANCER.
WHAT!? YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED TO PUNYAMA!?
CAN'T QUITE SEE YOU CUT OUT FOR THE MOTHER-LIFESTYLE.
NGH HHH!
AAGH HHHH!
GAHH!
HAH! HAH!
MRS. PUNAYAMA! I CAN SEE YOUR BABY'S HEAD!
YOU'RE DOING GREAT MA'AM! BREATHE IN, BREATHE OUT.

I KNOW ...
I KNOW THAT YOU'RE A REALLY LONELY PERSON
YOU'RE THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN MY LIFE
AND YOU TOO NEED ME BY YOUR SIDE
SO THEN ARE YOU PLANNING TO GO TO WORK TOMORROW?
...LIAR.
...I'M A 30 YEAR OLD HOUSE-WIFE!
COME ON, GIVE IT UP FOR THE LADIES!
TO THOSE LUSTFUL YOUNGER MEN, I'LL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR REPLYS!!!
...YOU RUINED MY LIFE.


SO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT,
BY DYING WITH ME...
H.H.H. JUST JOKING.
I WAS OBVIOUSLY ONLY JOKING
SO PLEASE ...
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT...


SIS...?
CAN YOU HEAR ME? IT'S ME. MIDORI
AND LOOK, PUNPUN CAME TOO.


PUN-PUN,
DO YOU STILL...
HATE... YOUR MOM...?
WELL, I DON'T BLAME YOU...
HUHA ....
I DID DO A LOT OF HORRIBLE THINGS TO YOU AFTER ALL...
AND AS A MOTHER,
I NEVER SHOWED YOU ALL THAT MUCH LOVE...

I GUESS
US TWO...
HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PRETTY COLD FOR A MOTHER AND SON...

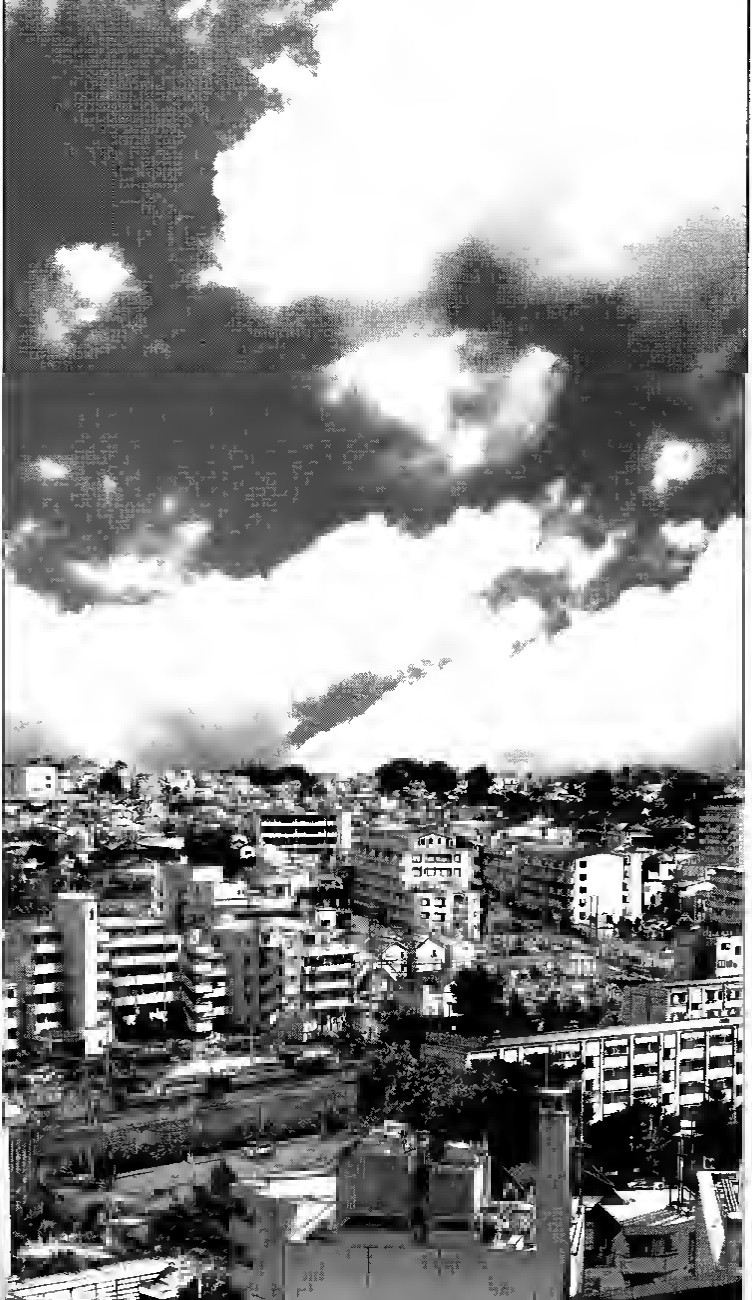
PUNPUN,
MOMMY DOESN'T HAVE MUCH LONGER TO LIVE...

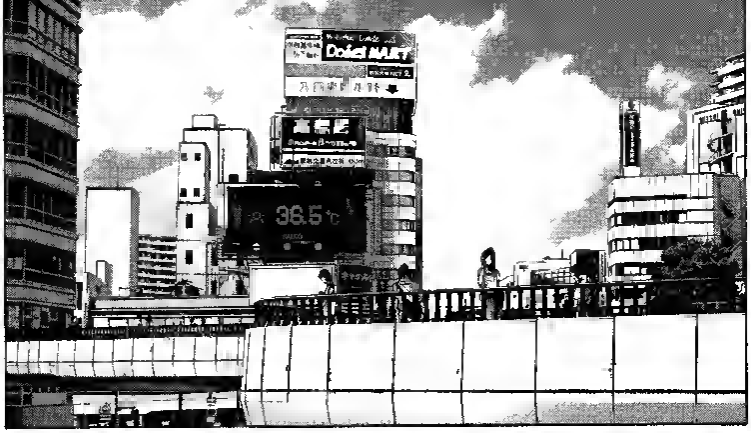
SO COME OVER HERE A LITTLE CLOSER...
AND SHOW ME YOUR FACE ONE LAST TIME...

PUNPUN
I'M SCARED
I'M SCARED
OF DYING...
I'M...
SORRY...
I'M SO SORRY.
PUNPUN...

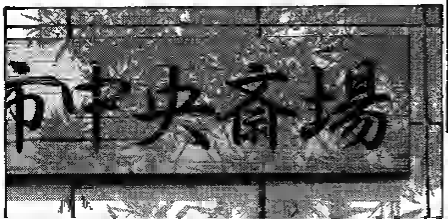
TO BE
HONEST...

I REALLY LOVED YOU, PUNPUN

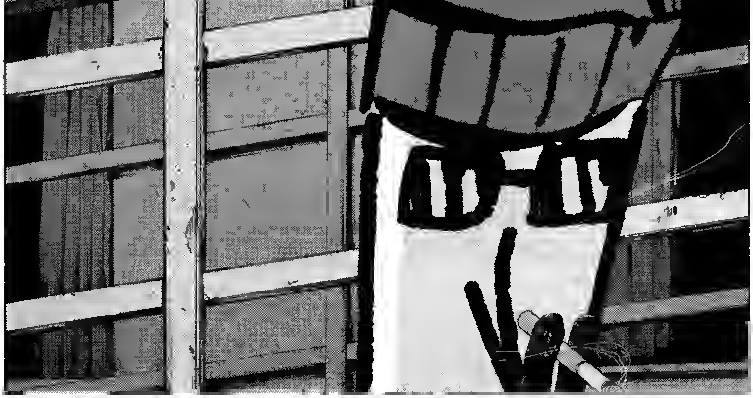


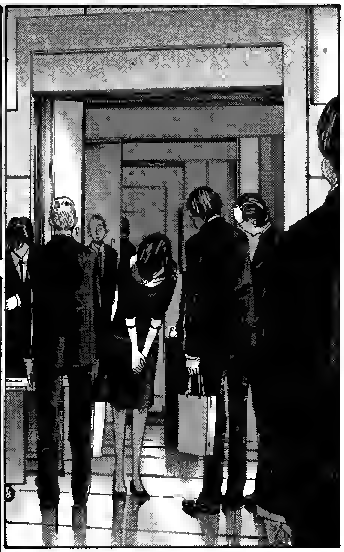

Daiei MART
36.5℃

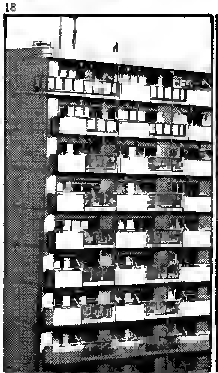
36.5℃
SAIKO
ンション


市中央商場

Goodnight
Punpun
YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS
Asano Inio
6







PUNPUN STILL COULD NOT LOVE HIS MOTHER.
EVEN AT THE VERY END,

横断禁止

おやすみプンプン❻

浅野いにお

背景アシスタント　鳥渕佑紀
佐藤五月
CGアシスタント　さいとうひさし
協力　くまつと

TRANSLATED BY HOX
SCANNED BY GRENADIER
SPECIAL HELP BY ANETHUM

プンプンパパ降臨!!

長年に渡る人体改造により、
鋼鉄の皮膚と30.5cm主砲8門を標準装備し
人間戦艦として超進化した父に
プンプンは打ち勝つことができるのか!?

レクス博士が開発した
ナノマシンのみという圧倒的戦力差の中で
プンプンがとった秘策とは!?

次巻、不動明王編に続く!!

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おやすみプンプン⑥

ヤングサンデーコミックス

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